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JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, 1844

*From the drawing by W. Richmond in the
National Portrait Gallery*

OXFORD EDITION

THE
DREAM OF GERONTIUS
AND OTHER POEMS

BY

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN



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TO EDWARD BADELEY, ESQ.

MY DEAR BADELEY,

I have not been without apprehension lest, in dedicating to you a number of poetical compositions, I should hardly be making a suitable offering to a member of a grave profession, which is especially employed in rubbing off the gloss with which imagination and sentiment invest matters of every-day life, and in reducing statements of fact to their legitimate dimensions. And, besides this, misgivings have not unnaturally come over me on the previous question; viz., whether, after all, the contents of the volume are of sufficient importance to make it an acceptable offering to any friend whatever.

And I must frankly confess, as to the latter difficulty, that certainly it never would have occurred to me thus formally to bring together into one, effusions which I have ever considered ephemeral, had I not lately found from publications of the day, what I never suspected before, that there are critics, and they strangers to me, who think well both of some of my compositions and of my power of composing. It is this commendation, bestowed on me to my surprise as well as to my gratification, which has encouraged me just now to republish what I have

from time to time written; and if, in doing so, I shall be found, as is not unlikely, to have formed a volume of unequal merit, my excuse must be, that I despair of discovering any standard by which to discriminate aright between one poetical attempt and another. Accordingly, I am thrown, from the nature of the case, whether I will or no, upon my own judgement; which, biassed by the associations of memory and by personal feelings, and measuring, perhaps, by the pleasure of verse-making, the worth of the verse, is disposed either to preserve them all, or to put them all aside.

Here another contrast presents itself between the poetical art and the science of law. Your profession has its definitive authorities, its prescriptions, its precedents, and its principles, by which to determine the claim of its authors on public attention; but what philosopher will undertake to rule matters of taste, or to bring under one idea or method poems so different from each other as those of Homer, Æschylus, and Pindar; of Terence, Ovid, Juvenal, and Martial? What court is sitting, and what code is received, for the satisfactory determination of the poetical pretensions of writers of the day? Whence can we hope to gain a verdict upon them, except from the unscientific tribunals of Public Opinion and of Time? In Poetry, as in Metaphysics, a book is of necessity a venture.

And now, coming to the suitableness of my offering, I know well, my dear Badeley, how little you will

be disposed to criticize what comes to you from me, whatever be its intrinsic value. Less still in this case, considering that a chief portion of the volume grew out of that Religious Movement which you yourself, as well as I, so faithfully followed from first to last. And least of all, when I tell you that I wish it to be the poor expression, long delayed, of my gratitude, never intermitted, for the great services which you rendered to me years ago, by your legal skill and affectionate zeal, in a serious matter in which I found myself in collision with the law of the land. Those services I have ever desired in some public, however inadequate, way to record ; and now ; as time hurries on and opportunities are few, I am forced to ask you to let me acknowledge my debt to you as I can, since I cannot as I would.

We are now, both of us, in the decline of life : may that warm attachment which has lasted between us inviolate for so many years, be continued, by the mercy of God, to the end of our earthly course, and beyond it !

I am, my dear Badeley,
Affectionately yours,
J. H. N.

THE ORATORY,
December 21, 1867.

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* *These five poems were restored with alterations in the 1874 edition of 'Verses'.*

THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS

THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS

§ 1

GERONTIUS.

JESU, MARIA—I am near to death,
And Thou art calling me ; I know it now.
Not by the token of this faltering breath,
This chill at heart, this dampness on my brow,—
(Jesu, have mercy ! Mary, pray for me !)
'Tis this new feeling, never felt before,
(Be with me, Lord, in my extremity !)
That I am going, that I am no more.
'Tis this strange innermost abandonment,
(Lover of souls ! great God ! I look to Thee,) 10
This emptying out of each constituent
And natural force, by which I come to be.
Pray for me, O my friends ; a visitant
Is knocking his dire summons at my door,
The like of whom, to scare me and to daunt,
Has never, never come to me before ;
'Tis death,—O loving friends, your prayers !—'tis
he ! . . .
As though my very being had given way,
As though I was no more a substance now,
And could fall back on nought to be my stay, 20
(Help, loving Lord ! Thou my sole Refuge, Thou,)
And turn no whither, but must needs decay
And drop from out the universal frame

Into that shapeless, scopeless, blank abyss,

That utter nothingness, of which I came :

This is it that has come to pass in me ;

O horror ! this it is, my dearest, this ;

So pray for me, my friends, who have not strength
to pray.

ASSISTANTS.

Kyrie eleïson, Christe eleïson, Kyrie eleïson.

Holy Mary, pray for him.

30

All holy Angels, pray for him.

Choirs of the righteous, pray for him.

Holy Abraham, pray for him.

St. John Baptist, St. Joseph, pray for him.

St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Andrew, St. John,

All Apostles, all Evangelists, pray for him.

All holy Disciples of the Lord, pray for him.

All holy Innocents, pray for him.

All holy Martyrs, all holy Confessors,

All holy Hermits, all holy Virgins,

40

All ye Saints of God, pray for him.

GERONTIUS.

Rouse thee, my fainting soul, and play the man ;

And through such waning span

Of life and thought as still has to be trod,

Prepare to meet thy God.

And while the storm of that bewilderment

Is for a season spent,

And, ere afresh the ruin on me fall,

Use well the interval.

ASSISTANTS.

Be merciful, be gracious ; spare him, Lord. 50

Be merciful, be gracious ; Lord, deliver him.

From the sins that are past ;

From Thy frown and Thine ire ;

From the perils of dying ;

From any complying

With sin, or denying

His God, or relying

On self, at the last ;

From the nethermost fire ;

From all that is evil ; 60

From power of the devil ;

Thy servant deliver,

For once and for ever.

By Thy birth, and by Thy Cross,

Rescue him from endless loss ;

By Thy death and burial,

Save him from a final fall ;

By Thy rising from the tomb,

• By Thy mounting up above,

By the Spirit's gracious love, 70

Save him in the day of doom.

GERONTIUS.

Sanctus fortis, Sanctus Deus,

De profundis oro te,

Miserere, Judex meus,

Parce mihi, Domine.

THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS

Firmly I believe and truly
God is Three, and God is One ;
And I next acknowledge duly
Manhood taken by the Son.
And I trust and hope most fully 80
In that manhood crucified ;
And each thought and deed unruly
Do to death, as He has died.
Simply to His grace and wholly
Light and life and strength belong,
And I love, supremely, solely,
Him the holy, Him the strong.
Sanctus fortis, Sanctus Deus,
De profundis oro te,
Miserere, Judex meus, 90
Parce mihi, Domine.
And I hold in veneration,
For the love of Him alone,
Holy Church, as His creation,
And her teachings, as His own.
And I take with joy whatever
Now besets me, pain or fear,
And with a strong will I sever
All the ties which bind me here.
Adoration aye be given, 100
With and through the angelic host,
To the God of earth and heaven,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Sanctus fortis, Sanctus Deus,
De profundis oro te,
Miserere, Judex meus,
Mortis in discrimine.

I can no more ; for now it comes again,
 That sense of ruin, which is worse than pain,
 That masterful negation and collapse 110
 Of all that makes me man ; as though I bent
 Over the dizzy brink
 Of some sheer infinite descent ;
 Or worse, as though
 Down, down for ever I was falling through
 The solid framework of created things,
 And needs must sink and sink
 Into the vast abyss. And, crueller still,
 A fierce and restless fright begins to fill
 The mansion of my soul. And, worse and worse,
 Some bodily form of ill 121
 Floats on the wind, with many a loathsome curse
 Tainting the hallow'd air, and laughs, and flaps
 Its hideous wings,
 And makes me wild with horror and dismay.
 O Jesu, help ! pray for me, Mary, pray !
 Some Angel, Jesu ! such as came to Thee
 In Thine own agony. . . .
 Mary, pray for me. Joseph, pray for me. Mary,
 • pray for me.

ASSISTANTS.

Rescue him, O Lord, in this his evil hour, 130
 As of old so many by Thy gracious power :—(Amen.)
 Enoch and Elias from the common doom ; (Amen.)
 Noe from the waters in a saving home ; (Amen.)
 Abraham from th' abounding guilt of Heathenesse ;
 (Amen.)
 Job from all his multiform and fell distress ; (Amen.)

Isaac, when his father's knife was raised to slay ;
(Amen.)

Lot from burning Sodom on its judgement-day ;
(Amen.)

Moses from the land of bondage and despair ; (Amen.)

Daniel from the hungry lions in their lair ; (Amen.)

And the Children Three amid the furnace-flame ;
(Amen.) 140

Chaste Susanna from the slander and the shame ;
(Amen.)

David from Golia and the wrath of Saul ; (Amen.)

And the two Apostles from their prison-thrall ;
(Amen.)

Thecla from her torments ; (Amen :)

—so to show Thy power,
Rescue this Thy servant in his evil hour.

GERONTIUS.

Novissima hora est ; and I fain would sleep.
The pain has wearied me. . . . Into Thy hands,
O Lord, into Thy hands . . .

THE PRIEST.

Proficiscere, anima Christiana, de hoc mundo !
Go forth upon thy journey, Christian soul ! 150
Go from this world ! Go, in the Name of God
The Omnipotent Father, who created thee !
Go, in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Son of the living God, who bled for thee !
Go, in the Name of the Holy Spirit, who
Hath been pour'd out on thee ! Go, in the name
Of Angels and Archangels ; in the name

Of Thrones and Dominations ; in the name
 Of Princedoms and of Powers ; and in the name
 Of Cherubim and Seraphim, go forth ! 160
 Go, in the name of Patriarchs and Prophets ;
 And of Apostles and Evangelists,
 Of Martyrs and Confessors ; in the name
 Of holy Monks and Hermits ; in the name
 Of holy Virgins ; and all Saints of God,
 Both men and women, go ! Go on thy course ;
 And may thy place to-day be found in peace,
 And may thy dwelling be the Holy Mount
 Of Sion :—through the Name of Christ, our Lord.

§ 2

SOUL OF GERONTIUS.

I went to sleep ; and now I am refresh'd, 170
 A strange refreshment : for I feel in me
 An inexpressive lightness, and a sense
 Of freedom, as I were at length myself,
 And ne'er had been before. How still it is !
 I hear no more the busy beat of time,
 No, nor my fluttering breath, nor struggling pulse ;
 Nor does one moment differ from the next.
 I had a dream ; yes :—some one softly said
 ' He's gone ' ; and then a sigh went round the
 room.
 And then I surely heard a priestly voice 180
 Cry ' Subvenite ' ; and they knelt in prayer.
 I seem to hear him still ; but thin and low,
 And fainter and more faint the accents come,
 As at an ever-widening interval.

Ah ! whence is this ? What is this severance ?
This silence pours a solitariness
Into the very essence of my soul ;
And the deep rest, so soothing and so sweet,
Hath something too of sternness and of pain.
For it drives back my thoughts upon their spring
By a strange introversion, and perforce 191
I now begin to feed upon myself,
Because I have nought else to feed upon.

Am I alive or dead ? I am not dead,
But in the body still ; for I possess
A sort of confidence which clings to me,
That each particular organ holds its place
As heretofore, combining with the rest
Into one symmetry, that wraps me round,
And makes me man ; and surely I could move,
Did I but will it, every part of me. 201
And yet I cannot to my sense bring home,
By very trial, that I have the power.
'Tis strange ; I cannot stir a hand or foot,
I cannot make my fingers or my lips
By mutual pressure witness each to each,
Nor by the eyelid's instantaneous stroke
Assure myself I have a body still.
Nor do I know my very attitude,
Nor if I stand, or lie, or sit, or kneel. 210

So much I know, not knowing how I know,
That the vast universe, where I have dwelt,
Is quitting me, or I am quitting it.
Or I or it is rushing on the wings

Of light or lightning on an onward course,
And we e'en now are million miles apart.
Yet . . . is this peremptory severance
Wrought out in lengthening measurements of space,
Which grow and multiply by speed and time ?
Or am I traversing infinity 220
By endless subdivision, hurrying back
From finite towards infinitesimal,
Thus dying out of the expanded world ?

Another marvel : some one has me fast
Within his ample palm ; 'tis not a grasp
Such as they use on earth, but all around
Over the surface of my subtle being,
As though I were a sphere, and capable
To be accosted thus, a uniform
And gentle pressure tells me I am not 230
Self-moving, but borne forward on my way.
And hark ! I hear a singing ; yet in sooth
I cannot of that music rightly say
Whether I hear, or touch, or taste the tones.
Oh, what a heart-subduing melody '

•

ANGEL.

My work is done,
My task is o'er,
And so I come,
Taking it home,
For the crown is won, 240
Alleluia,
For evermore.

My Father gave
 In charge to me
 This child of earth
 E'en from its birth,
 To serve and save,
 Alleluia,
 And saved is he.

This child of clay 250
 To me was given,
 To rear and train
 By sorrow and pain
 In the narrow way,
 Alleluia,
 From earth to heaven.

SOUL.

It is a member of that family
 Of wondrous beings, who, ere the worlds were made,
 Millions of ages back, have stood around
 The throne of God :—he never has known sin ;
 But through those cycles all but infinite, 261
 Has had a strong and pure celestial life,
 And bore to gaze on the unveil'd face of God,
 And drank from the eternal Fount of truth,
 And served Him with a keen ecstatic love.
 Hark ! he begins again.

ANGEL.

O Lord, how wonderful in depth and height,
 But most in man, how wonderful Thou art !
 With what a love, what soft persuasive might
 Victorious o'er the stubborn fleshly heart,

Thy tale complete of saints Thou dost provide,
To fill the throne which Angels lost through pride !

He lay a grovelling babe upon the ground,
Polluted in the blood of his first sire,
With his whole essence shatter'd and unsound,
And coil'd around his heart a demon dire,
Which was not of his nature, but had skill
To bind and form his op'ning mind to ill.

'Then was I sent from heaven to set right
The balance in his soul of truth and sin, 280
And I have waged a long relentless fight,
Resolved that death-environ'd spirit to win,
Which from its fallen state, when all was lost,
Had been repurchased at so dread a cost.

Oh, what a shifting parti-colour'd scene
Of hope and fear, of triumph and dismay,
Of recklessness and penitence, has been
The history of that dreary, life-long fray !
And oh, the grace to nerve him and to lead, 289
How patient, prompt, and lavish at his need !

O man, strange composite of heaven and earth !
• Majesty dwarf'd to baseness ! fragrant flower
Running to poisonous seed ! and seeming worth
Cloking corruption ! weakness mastering power !
Who never art so near to crime and shame,
As when thou hast achieved some deed of name ;—

How should ethereal natures comprehend
A thing made up of spirit and of clay,
Were we not task'd to nurse it and to tend, 299
Link'd one to one throughout its mortal day ?

More than the Seraph in his height of place,
 The Angel-guardian knows and loves the ransom'd
 race.

• SOUL.

Now know I surely that I am at length
 Out of the body ; had I part with earth,
 I never could have drunk those accents in,
 And not have worshipp'd as a god the voice
 That was so musical ; but now I am
 So whole of heart, so calm, so self-possess'd,
 With such a full content, and with a sense
 So apprehensive and discriminant, 310
 As no temptation can intoxicate.
 Nor have I even terror at the thought
 That I am clasp'd by such a saintliness.

ANGEL.

All praise to Him, at whose sublime decree
 The last are first, the first become the last ;
 By whom the suppliant prisoner is set free,
 By whom proud first-borns from their thrones
 are cast ;
 Who raises Mary to be Queen of heaven,
 While Lucifer is left, condemn'd and unforgiven.

§ 3

SOUL.

I will address him. Mighty one, my Lord, 320
 My Guardian Spirit, all hail !

ANGEL.

All hail, my child !
My child and brother, hail ! what wouldst thou ?

SOUL.

I would have nothing but to speak with thee
For speaking's sake. I wish to hold with thee
Conscious communion ; though I fain would know
A maze of things, were it but meet to ask,
And not a curiousness.

ANGEL.

You cannot now
Cherish a wish which ought not to be wish'd.

SOUL.

Then I will speak. I ever had believed 329
That on the moment when the struggling soul
Quitted its mortal case, forthwith it fell
Under the awful Presence of its God,
There to be judged and sent to its own place.
What lets me now from going to my Lord ?

ANGEL.

Thou art not let ; but with extremest speed
Art hurrying to the Just and Holy Judge :
For scarcely art thou disembodied yet.
Divide a moment, as men measure time,
Into its million-million-millionth part,
Yet even less than that the interval 340
Since thou didst leave the body ; and the priest
Cried ' Subvenite ', and they fell to prayer ;
Nay, scarcely yet have they begun to pray.

For spirits and men by different standards mete
The less and greater in the flow of time.
By sun and moon, primeval ordinances—
By stars which rise and set harmoniously—
By the recurring seasons, and the swing,
This way and that, of the suspended rod
Precise and punctual, men divide the hours, 350
Equal, continuous, for their common use.
Not so with us in the immaterial world ;
But intervals in their succession
Are measured by the living thought alone
And grow or wane with its intensity.
And time is not a common property ;
But what is long is short, and swift is slow,
And near is distant, as received and grasp'd
By this mind and by that, and every one
Is standard of his own chronology. 360
And memory lacks its natural resting-points,
Of years, and centuries, and periods.
It is thy very energy of thought
Which keeps thee from thy God.

Soul.

Dear Angel, say,
Why have I now no fear at meeting Him ?
Along my earthly life, the thought of death
And judgement was to me most terrible.
I had it aye before me, and I saw
The Judge severe e'en in the Crucifix.
Now that the hour is come, my fear is fled ; 370
And at this balance of my destiny,
Now close upon me, I can forward look
With a sorest joy.

ANGEL.

It is because
Then thou didst fear, that now thou dost not fear,
Thou hast forestall'd the agony, and so
For thee the bitterness of death is past.
Also, because already in thy soul
The judgement is begun. That day of doom,
One and the same for the collected world—
That solemn consummation for all flesh, 380
Is, in the case of each, anticipate
Upon his death ; and, as the last great day
In the particular judgement is rehearsed,
So now, too, ere thou comest to the Throne,
A presage falls upon thee, as a ray
Straight from the Judge, expressive of thy lot.
That calm and joy uprising in thy soul
Is first-fruit to thee of thy recompense,
And heaven begun.

§ 4

SOUL.

But hark ! upon my sense
Comes a fierce hubbub, which would make me fear,
Could I be frightened.

ANGEL.

We are now arrived 391
Close on the judgement-court ; that sullen howl
Is from the demons who assemble there.
It is the middle region, where of old
Satan appeared among the sons of God,
To cast his jibes and scoffs at holy Job.

So now his legions throng the vestibule,
 Hungry and wild, to claim their property,
 And gather souls for hell. Hist to their cry.

• SOUL.

How sour and how uncouth a dissonance ! 400

DEMONS.

Low-born clods
 Of brute earth,
 They aspire
 To become gods,
 By a new birth,
 And an extra grace,
 And a score of merits,
 As if aught
 Could stand in place
 Of the high thought, 410
 And the glance of fire
 Of the great spirits,
 The powers blest,
 The lords by right,
 The primal owners,
 Of the proud dwelling
 And realm of light,—
 Dispossessed,
 Aside thrust,
 Chuck'd down, 420
 By the sheer might,
 Of a despot's will,
 Of a tyrant's frown,
 Who after expelling
 Their hosts, gave,

Triumphant still,
 And still unjust,
 Each forfeit crown
 To psalm-droñers,
 And canting groaners,
 To every slave,
 And pious cheat
 And crawling knave,
 Who lick'd the dust
 Under his feet.

ANGEL.

It is the restless panting of their being ;
 Like beasts of prey, who, caged within their bars,
 In a deep hideous purring have their life,
 And an incessant pacing to and fro.

DEMONS.

The mind bold
 And independent,
 The purpose free,
 So we are told,
 Must not think
 To have the ascendant.
 What's a saint ?
 One whose breath
 Doth the air taint
 Before his death ;
 A bundle of bones
 Which fools adore,
 Ha ! ha !
 When life is o'er ;

Which rattle and stink,

E'en in the flesh.

We cry his pardon !

No flesh hath he ;

Ha ! ha !

For it hath died,

'Tis crucified

460

Day by day,

Afresh, afresh,

Ha ! ha !

That holy clay,

Ha ! ha !

This gains guerdon,

So priestlings prate,

Ha ! ha !

Before the Judge,

And pleads and atones

470

For spite and grudge,

And bigot mood,

And envy and hate,

And greed of blood.

SOUL.

How impotent they are ! and yet on earth

They have repute for wondrous power and skill ;

And books describe, how that the very face

Of the Evil One, if seen, would have a force

Even to freeze the blood, and choke the life

Of him who saw it.

ANGEL.

In thy trial-state

480

Thou hadst a traitor nestling close at home,

Connatural, who with the powers of hell
 Was leagued, and of thy senses kept the keys,
 And to that deadliest foe unlock'd thy heart. .
 And therefore is it, in respect of man,
 Those fallen ones show so majestic.
 But, when some child of grace, Angel or Saint,
 Pure and upright in his integrity
 Of nature, meets the demons on their raid,
 They scud away as cowards from the fight. 490
 Nay, oft hath holy hermit in his cell,
 Not yet disburden'd of mortality,
 Mock'd at their threats and warlike overtures ;
 Or, dying, when they swarm'd, like flies, around,
 Defied them, and departed to his Judge.

DEMONS.

Virtue and vice,
 A knave's pretence,
 'Tis all the same ;
 Ha ! Ha !
 Dread of hell-fire, 500
 Of the venomous flame,
 A coward's plea.
 Give him his price,
 Saint though he be,
 Ha ! Ha !
 From shrewd good sense
 He'll slave for hire ;
 Ha ! ha !
 And does but aspire
 To the heaven above 510

With sordid aim,
And not from love.

• Ha ! ha !

SOUL.

I see not those false spirits ; shall I see
My dearest Master, when I reach His throne ?
Or hear, at least, His awful judgement-word
With personal intonation, as I now
Hear thee, not see thee, Angel ? Hitherto
All has been darkness since I left the earth ;
Shall I remain thus sight-bereft all through 520
My penance-time ? If so, how comes it then
That I have hearing still, and taste, and touch,
Yet not a glimmer of that princely sense
Which binds ideas in one, and makes them live ?

ANGEL.

Nor touch, nor taste, nor hearing hast thou now ;
Thou livest in a world of signs and types,
The presentations of most holy truths,
Living and strong, which now encompass thee.
A disembodied soul, thou hast by right
No converse with aught else beside thyself ; 530
But, lest so stern a solitude should load
And break thy being, in mercy are vouchsaf'd
Some lower measures of perception,
Which seem to thee, as though through channels
brought,
Through ear, or nerves, or palate, which are gone.
And thou art wrapp'd and swath'd around in dreams,
Dreams that are true, yet enigmatical ;

For the belongings of thy present state,
Save through such symbols, come not home to thee.
And thus thou tell'st of space and time and size. .
Of fragrant, solid, bitter, musical, 541
Or fire, and of refreshment after fire ;
As (let me use similitude of earth,
To aid thee in the knowledge thou dost ask)—
As ice which blisters may be said to burn.
Nor hast thou now extension, with its parts
Correlative,—long habit cozens thee,—
Nor power to move thyself, nor limbs to move.
Hast thou not heard of those, who after loss
Of hand or foot, still cried that they had pains
In hand or foot, as though they had it still ? 551
So is it now with thee, who hast not lost
Thy hand or foot, but all which made up man.
So will it be, until the joyous day
Of resurrection, when thou wilt regain
All thou hast lost, new-made and glorified.
How, even now, the consummated Saints
See God in heaven, I may not explicate ;
Meanwhile, let it suffice thee to possess
Such means of converse as are granted thee, 560
Though, till that Beatific Vision, thou art blind ;
For e'en thy purgatory, which comes like fire,
Is fire without its light.

SOUL.

His will be done !

I am not worthy e'er to see again
The face of day ; far less His countenance,
Who is the very sun. Natheless in life,

When I look'd forward to my purgatory,
It ever was my solace to believe,
That, ere I plunged amid the avenging flame,
I had one sight of Him to strengthen me. 570

ANGEL.

Nor rash nor vain is that presentiment ;
Yes,—for one moment thou shalt see thy Lord.
Thus will it be : what time thou art arraign'd
Before the dread tribunal, and thy lot
Is cast for ever, should it be to sit
On His right hand among His pure elect,
Then sight, or that which to the soul is sight,
As by a lightning-flash, will come to thee,
And thou shalt see, amid the dark profound, 579
Whom thy soul loveth, and would fain approach,—
One moment ; but thou knowest not, my child,
What thou dost ask : that sight of the Most Fair
Will gladden thee, but it will pierce thee too.

SOUL.

Thou speakest darkly, Angel ; and an awe
Falls on me, and a fear lest I be rash.

ANGEL.

There was a mortal, who is now above
In the mid glory : he, when near to die,
Was given communion with the Crucified,—
Such, that the Master's very wounds were stamp'd
Upon his flesh ; and, from the agony 590
Which thrill'd through body and soul in that embrace,
Learn that the flame of the Everlasting Love
Doth burn ere it transform . . .

§ 5

. . . Hark to those sounds
 They come of tender beings angelical,
 Least and most childlike of the sons of God.

FIRST CHOIR OF ANGELICALS.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
 And in the depth be praise :
 In all His words most wonderful ;
 Most sure in all His ways !

To us His elder race He gave
 To battle and to win,
 Without the chastisement of pain,
 Without the soil of sin.

The younger son He will'd to be
 A marvel in his birth :
 Spirit and flesh his parents were ;
 His home was heaven and earth.

The Eternal bless'd His child, and arm'd,
 And sent him hence afar,
 To serve as champion in the field
 Of elemental war.

To be His Viceroy in the world
 Of matter, and of sense ;
 Upon the frontier, towards the foe,
 A resolute defence.

ANGEL.

We now have pass'd the gate, and are within
 The House of Judgement ; and whereas on earth
 Temples and palaces are form'd of parts

Costly and rare, but all material,
So in the world of spirits naught is found, 620
To mould withal and form into a whole,
But what is immaterial; and thus
The smallest portions of this edifice,
Cornice, or frieze, or balustrade, or stair,
The very pavement is made up of life—
Of holy, blessed, and immortal beings,
Who hymn their Maker's praise continually.

SECOND CHOIR OF ANGELICALS.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise :
In all His words most wonderful ; 630
Most sure in all His ways !

Woe to thee, man ! for he was found
A recreant in the fight ;
And lost his heritage of heaven,
And fellowship with light.

Above him now the angry sky,
Around the tempest's din ;
Who once had Angels for his friends,
Had but the brutes for kin.

O man ! a savage kindred they ; 640
To flee that monster brood
He scaled the seaside cave, and clomb
The giants of the wood.

With now a fear, and now a hope,
With aids which chance supplied,
From youth to eld., from sire to son,
He lived, and toil'd, and died.

He dreed his penance age by age ;
And step by step began
Slowly to doff his savage garb, 650
And be again a man. •

And quicken'd by the Almighty's breath
And chasten'd by His rod,
And taught by angel-visittings,
At length he sought his God ;

And learn'd to call upon His Name,
And in His faith create
A household and a father-land,
A city and a state.

Glory to Him who from the mire, 660
In patient length of days,
Elaborated into life
A people to His praise !

SOUL.

The sound is like the rushing of the wind—
The summer wind—among the lofty pines ;
Swelling and dying, echoing round about,
Now here, now distant, wild and beautiful ;
While, scatter'd from the branches it has stirr'd,
Descend ecstatic odours.

THIRD CHOIR OF ANGELICALS.

Praise to the Holiest in the height, 670
And in the depth be praise :
In all His words most wonderful ;
Most sure in all His ways !

The Angels, as be seemingly
To spirit-kind was given,
At once were tried and perfected,
And took their seats in heaven.

For them no twilight or eclipse ;
No growth and no decay :
'Twas hopeless, all-ingulfing night, 680
Or beatific day.

But to the younger race there rose
A hope upon its fall ;
And slowly, surely, gracefully,
The morning dawn'd on all.

And ages, opening out, divide
The precious and the base,
And from the hard and sullen mass
Mature the heirs of grace.

O man ! albeit the quickening ray, 690
Lit from his second birth,
Makes him at length what once he was,
And heaven grows out of earth ;

Yet still between that earth and heaven—
His journey and his goal—
A double agony awaits
His body and his soul.

A double debt he has to pay—
The forfeit of his sins :
The chill of death is past, and now 700
The penance-fire begins.

Glory to Him, who evermore
By truth and justice reigns ;
Who tears the soul from out its case,
And burns away its stains !

ANGEL.

They sing of thy approaching agony,
Which thou so eagerly didst question of :
It is the face of the Incarnate God
Shall smite thee with that keen and subtle pain ;
And yet the memory which it leaves will be 710
A sovereign febrifuge to heal the wound ;
And yet withal it will the wound provoke,
And aggravate and widen it the more.

SOUL.

Thou speakest mysteries ; still methinks I know
To disengage the tangle of thy words :
Yet rather would I hear thy angel voice,
Than for myself be thy interpreter.

ANGEL.

When then—if such thy lot—thou seest thy Judge,
The sight of Him will kindle in thy heart
All tender, gracious, reverential thoughts. 720
Thou wilt be sick with love, and yearn for Him,
And feel as though thou couldst but pity Him,
That one so sweet should e'er have placed Himself
At disadvantage such, as to be used
So vilely by a being so vile as thee.
There is a pleading in His pensive eyes
Will pierce thee to the quick, and trouble thee.
And thou wilt hate and loathe thyself ; for, though

Now sinless, thou wilt feel that thou hast sinn'd,
As never thou didst feel ; and wilt desire 730
To slink away, and hide thee from His sight :
And yet wilt have a longing ay to dwell
Within the beauty of His countenance.
And these two pains, so counter and so keen,—
The longing for Him, when thou seest Him not ;
The shame of self at thought of seeing Him,—
Will be thy veriest, sharpest purgatory.

SOUL.

My soul is in my hand : I have no fear,—
In His dear might prepared for weal or woo.
But hark ! a grand, mysterious harmony : 740
It floods me, like the deep and solemn sound
Of many waters.

ANGEL.

We have gain'd the stairs
Which rise towards the Presence-chamber ; there
A band of mighty Angels keep the way
On either side, and hymn the Incarnate God.

ANGELS OF THE SACRED STAIR.

Father, whose goodness none can know, but they
Who see Thee face to face,
By man hath come the infinite display
Of Thy victorious grace ;
But fallen man—the creature of a day— 750
Skills not that love to trace.
It needs, to tell the triumph Thou hast wrought,
An Angel's deathless fire, an Angel's reach of thought.

It needs that very Angel, who with awe,
Amid the garden shade,
The great Creator in His sickness saw,
Soothed by a creature's aid,
And agonized, as victim of the Law
Which He Himself had made ; 759
For who can praise Him in His depth and height,
But he who saw Him reel amid that solitary fight ?

SOUL.

Hark ! for the lintels of the presence-gate
Are vibrating and echoing back the strain.

FOURTH CHOIR OF ANGELICALS.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise ;
In all His words most wonderful ;
Most sure in all His ways !

The foe blasphemed the Holy Lord,
As if He reckon'd ill,
In that He placed His puppet man 770
The frontier place to fill.

For even in his best estate,
With amplest gifts endued,
A sorry sentinel was he,
A being of flesh and blood.

As though a thing, who for his help
Must needs possess a wife,
Could cope with those proud rebel hosts
Who had angelic life.

And when, by blandishment of Eve, 780
That earth-born Adam fell,
He shriek'd in triumph, and he cried,
' A sorry sentinel ;

' The Maker by His word is bound,
Escape or cure is none ;
He must abandon to his doom,
And slay His darling son.'

ANGEL.

And now the threshold, as we traverse it,
Utters aloud its glad responsive chant.

FIFTH CHOIR OF ANGELICALS.

Praise to the Holiest in the height, 790
And in the depth be praise :
In all His words most wonderful ;
Most sure in all His ways !

O loving wisdom of our God !
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came.

O wisest love ! that flesh and blood
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against their foe, 800
Should strive and should prevail ;

And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine,
God's Presence and His very Self,
And Essence all-divine.

O generous love ! that He who smote
In man for man the foe,
The double agony in man
For man should undergo ;

And in the garden secretly, 810
And on the cross on high,
Should teach His brethren and inspire
To suffer and to die.

§ 6

ANGEL.

Thy judgement now is near, for we are come
Into the veiled presence of our God.

SOUL.

I hear the voices that I left on earth.

ANGEL.

It is the voice of friends around thy bed,
Who say the 'Subvenite' with the priest.
Hither the echoes come ; before the Throne
Stands the great Angel of the Agony, 820
The same who strengthen'd Him, what time He
knelt
Lone in that garden shade, bedew'd with blood.
That Angel best can plead with Him for all
Tormented souls, the dying and the dead.

ANGEL OF THE AGONY.

Jesu ! by that shuddering dread which fell on Thee ;
Jesu ! by that cold dismay which sicken'd Thee ;

Jesu ! by that pang of heart which thrill'd in Thee ;
 Jesu ! by that mount of sins which crippled Thee ;
 Jesu ! by that sense of guilt which stifled Thee ;
 Jesu ! by that innocence which girdled Thee ; 830
 Jesu ! by that sanctity which reign'd in Thee ;
 Jesu ! by that Godhead which was one with Thee ;
 Jesu ! spare these souls which are so dear to Thee,
 Who in prison, calm and patient, wait for Thee ;
 Hasten, Lord, their hour, and bid them come to
 Thee,
 To that glorious Home, where they shall ever gaze
 on Thee.

SOUL.

I go before my Judge. Ah ! . . .

ANGEL.

. . . Praise to His Name !

The eager spirit has darted from my hold,
 And, with the intemperate energy of love,
 Flies to the dear feet of Emmanuel ; 840
 But, ere it reach them, the keen sanctity,
 Which with its effluence, like a glory, clothes
 And circles round the Crucified, has seized,
 And scorch'd, and shrivell'd it ; and now it lies
 Passive and still before the awful Throne.
 O happy, suffering soul ! for it is safe,
 Consumed, yet quicken'd, by the glance of God.

SOUL.

Take me away, and in the lowest deep
 There let me be,
 And there in hope the lone night-watches keep, 850
 Told out for me.

There, motionless and happy in my pain,
 Lone, not forlorn,—
 There will I sing my sad perpetual strain,
 Until the morn.
 There will I sing, and soothe my stricken breast,
 Which ne'er can cease
 To throb, and pine, and languish, till possess
 Of its Sole Peace.
 There will I sing my absent Lord and Love :— 860
 Take me away,
 That sooner I may rise, and go above,
 And see Him in the truth of everlasting day.

§ 7

ANGEL.

Now let the golden prison ope its gates,
 Making sweet music, as each fold revolves
 Upon its ready hinge. And ye, great powers,
 Angels of Purgatory, receive from me
 My charge, a precious soul, until the day,
 When, from all bond and forfeiture released,
 I shall reclaim it for the courts of light. 870

SOULS IN PURGATORY.

1. Lord, Thou hast been our refuge : in every generation ;
2. Before the hills were born, and the world was :
 from age to age Thou art God.
3. Bring us not, Lord, very low : for Thou hast said,
 Come back again, ye sons of Adam.
4. A thousand years before Thine eyes are but as

yesterday : and as a watch of the night which
is come and gone.

5. The grass springs up in the morning : at evening-
tide it shrivels up and dies.
6. So we fail in Thine anger : and in Thy wrath are
we troubled.
7. Thou hast set our sins in Thy sight : and our
round of days in the light of Thy countenance.
8. Come back, O Lord ! how long : and be entreated
for Thy servants.
9. In Thy morning we shall be filled with Thy
mercy : we shall rejoice and be in pleasure all
our days.
10. We shall be glad according to the days of our
humiliation : and the years in which we have
seen evil. 880
11. Look, O Lord, upon Thy servants and on Thy
work : and direct their children.
12. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be
upon us : and the work of our hands, establish
Thou it.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the
Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall
be : world without end. Amen.

ANGEL.

Softly and gently, dearly-ransom'd soul,
In my most loving arms I now enfold thee,
And, o'er the penal waters, as they roll,
I poise thee, and I lower thee, and hold thee

And carefully I dip thee in the lake,
And thou, without a sob or a resistance, 890
Dost through the flood thy rapid passage take,
Sinking deep, deeper, into the dim distance.

Angels, to whom the willing task is given,
Shall tend, and nurse, and lull thee, as thou
liest ;

And Masses on the earth, and prayers in heaven,
Shall aid thee at the Throne of the Most Highest.

Farewell, but not for ever ! brother dear,
Be brave and patient on thy bed of sorrow ;
Swiftly shall pass thy night of trial here, 899
And I will come and wake thee on the morrow.

The Oratory.

January 1865.

VERSES ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS

1821-1862

‘cui pauca relict
Jugera ruris erant ; nec fertilis illa juvencis,
Nec pecori opportuna seges, nec commoda Baccho.
Hic rarum tamen in dumis olus, albaque circum
Lilia, verbenasque premens, vescumque papaver,
Regum aequabat opes animis.’

PARAPHRASE

OF ISAIAH, CHAP. LXIV

O THAT Thou wouldest rend the breadth of sky,
 That veils Thy presence from the sons of men !
 O that, as erst Thou camest from on high
 Sudden in strength, Thou so would'st come again !
 Track'd out by judgements was Thy fiery path,
 Ocean and mountain withering in Thy wrath !

Then would Thy name—the Just, the Merciful—
 Strange dubious attributes to human mind,
 Appal Thy foes ; and kings, who spurn Thy rule,
 Then, then would quake to hopeless doom consign'd.
 See, the stout bows, and totters the secure, 11
 While pleasure's bondsman hides his head impure !

Come down ! for then shall from its seven bright
 springs

To him who thirsts the draught of life be given ;
 Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard the things
 Which He hath purposed for the heirs of heaven,—
 A God of love, guiding with gracious ray
 Each meek rejoicing pilgrim on his way.

Yea, though we err, and Thine averted face
 Rebukes the folly in Thine Israel done, 20
 Will not that hour of chastisement give place
 To beams, the pledge of an eternal sun ?

42 PARAPHRASE OF ISAIAH, CHAP. LXIV

Yes ! for His counsels to the end endure ;
We shall be saved, our rest abideth sure.

, Lord, Lord ! our sins . . . our sins . . . unclean are we,
Gross and corrupt ; our seeming-virtuous deeds
Are but abominate ; all, dead to Thee,
Shrivel, like leaves when summer's green recedes ;
While, like the autumn blast, our lusts arise,
And sweep their prey where the fell serpent lies. 30

None, there is none to plead with God in prayer,
Bracing his laggart spirit to the work
Of intercession ; conscience-sprung despair,
Sin-loving still, doth in each bosom lurk.
Guilt calls Thee to avenge ;—Thy risen ire
Sears like a brand, we gaze and we expire.

But now, O Lord, our Father ! we are Thine,
Design and fashion ; senseless while we lay,
Thou, as the potter, with a Hand Divine,
Didst mould Thy vessels of the sluggish clay. 40
Mark not our guilt, Thy word of wrath recall,
Lo, we are Thine by price, Thy people all !

Alas for Zion ! 'tis a waste ;—the fair,
The holy place in flames ;—where once our sires
Kindled the sacrifice of praise and prayer,
Far other brightness gleams from Gentile fires.
Low lies our pride ;—and wilt Thou self-deny
Thy rescuing arm, unvex'd amid Thine Israel's cry ?

Brighton.

September 1821.

II

TO F. W. N.

A BIRTHDAY OFFERING

DEAR Frank, this morn has usher'd in
 The manhood of thy days ;
 A boy no more, thou must begin
 To choose thy future ways ;
 To brace thy arm, and nerve thy heart,
 For maintenance of a noble part.

And thou a voucher fair hast given,
 Of what thou wilt achieve,
 Ere age has dimm'd thy sunlit heaven
 In weary life's chill eve ;
 Should Sovereign Wisdom in its grace
 Vouchsafe to thee so long a race.

10

My brother, we are link'd with chain
 That time shall ne'er destroy ;
 Together we have been in pain,
 Together now in joy ;
 For duly I to share may claim
 The present brightness of thy name.

My brother, 'tis no recent tie
 Which binds our fates in one,
 E'en from our tender infancy

20

The twisted thread was spun ;—
 Her deed, who stored in her fond mind
 Our forms, by sacred love enshrin'd.

In her affection all had share,
All six, she lov'd them all ;
Yet on her early-chosen Pair
Did her full favour fall ;
And we became her dearest theme,
Her waking thought, her nightly dream. 30

Ah ! brother, shall we e'er forget
Her love, her care, her zeal ?
We cannot pay the countless debt,
But we must ever feel ;
For through her earnestness were shed
Prayer-purchased blessings on our head.

Though in the end of days she stood,
And pain and weakness came,
Her force of thought was unsubdued,
Her fire of love the same ; 40
And e'en when memory fail'd its part,
We still kept lodgement in her heart.

And when her Maker from the thrall
Of flesh her spirit freed,
No suffering companied the call.
—In mercy 't was decreed,—
One moment here, the next she trod
The viewless mansion of her God.

Now then at length she is at rest,
And, after many a woe, 50
Rejoices in that Saviour blest,
Who was her hope below ;
Kept till the day when He shall own
His saints before His Father's throne.

So it is left for us to prove
Her prayers were not in vain ;
And that God's grace-according love
Has fall'n as gentle rain,
Which, sent in the due vernal hour,
Tints the young leaf, perfumes the flower. 60

Dear Frank, we both are summon'd now
As champions of the Lord ;—
Enroll'd am I, and shortly thou
Must buckle on thy sword ;
A high employ, nor lightly given,
To serve as messengers of heaven !

Deep in my heart that gift I hide ;
I change it not away,
For patriot-warrior's hour of pride,
Or statesman's tranquil sway ; 70
For poet's fire, or pleader's skill
To pierce the soul and tame the will.

O ! may we follow undismay'd
Where'er our God shall call !
And may His Spirit's present aid
Uphold us lest we fall !
Till in the end of days we stand,
As victors in a deathless land.

III

NATURE AND ART

FOR AN ALBUM

‘MAN goeth forth’¹ with restless trust
 Upon his wealth of mind,
 As if in self a thing of dust
 Creative skill might find ;
 He schemes and toils ; stone, wood, and ore
 Subject or weapon of his power.

By arch and spire, by tower-girt heights,
 He would his boast fulfil ;
 By marble births, and mimic lights,—
 Yet lacks one secret still ;
 Where is the master-hand shall give
 To breathe, to move, to speak, to live ?

15

O take away this shade of might,
 The puny toil of man,
 And let rich Nature in my sight
 Unfold her varied plan ;
 I cannot bear those sullen walls,
 Those eyeless towers, those tongueless halls.

Art’s labour’d toys of highest name
 Are nerveless, cold, and dumb ;
 And man is fitted but to frame
 A coffin or a tomb ;

20

¹ Psalm civ. [ciii.] 23.

Well suit, when sense is pass'd away,
Such lifeless works the lifeless clay.

Here let me sit where wooded hills
Skirt yon far-reaching plain ;
While cattle bank its winding rills,
And suns embrown its grain ;
Such prospect is to me right dear,
For freedom, health, and joy are here. 30

There is a spirit ranging through
The earth, the stream, the air ;
Ten thousand shapos, garbs ever new,
That restless One doth wear ;
In colour, scent, and taste, and sound
The energy of life is found.

The leaves are rustling in the breeze,
The bird renews her song ;
From field to brook, o'er heath, o'er trees,
The sunbeam glides along ; 40
The insect, happy in its hour,
Floats softly by, or sips the flower.

Now dewy rain descends, and now
Brisk showers the welkin shroud ;
I care not, though with angry brow
Frowns the red thunder-cloud ;
Let hail-storm pelt, and lightning harm,
'Tis Nature's work, and has its charm.

Ah ! lovely Nature ! others dwell
Full favour'd in thy court ; 50

I of thy smiles but hear them tell,
And feed on their report,
Catching what glimpse an Ulcombe yields
To strangers loitering in her fields.

I go where form has ne'er unbent
The sameness of its sway ;
Where iron rule, stern precedent,
Mistreat the graceful day ;
To pine as prisoner in his cell,
And yet be thought to love it well. 60

Yet so His high dispose has set,
Who binds on each his part ;
Though absent, I may cherish yet
An Ulcombe of the heart ;
Calm verdant hope divinely given,
And suns of peace, and scenes of heaven ;—

A soul prepared His will to meet,
Full fix'd His work to do ;
Not labour'd into sudden heat,
But inly born anew.— 70
So living Nature, not dull Art,
Shall plan my ways and rule my heart.

IV

INTRODUCTION

TO AN ALBUM

I AM a harp of many chords, and each
 Strung by a separate hand ;—most musical
 My notes, discoursing with the mental sense,
 Not the outward ear. Try them, for they bespeak
 Mild wisdom, graceful wit, and high-wrought taste,
 Fancy, and hope, and decent gaiety.

Come, add a string to my assort of sounds ;
 Widen the compass of my harmony ;
 And join thyself in fellowship of name 9
 With those, whose courteous labour and fair gifts
 Have given me voice, and made me what I am.

Brighton.

April 1827.

V

SNAPDRAGON

A RIDDLE

FOR A FLOWER-BOOK

I AM rooted in the wall
 Of buttress'd tower or ancient hall ;
 Prison'd in an art-wrought bed,
 Cas'd in mortar, cramp'd with lead ;
 Of a living stock alone
 Brother of the lifeless stone.

Else unprized, I have my worth
 On the spot that gives me birth ;
 Nature's vast and varied field
 Braver flowers than me will yield, 10
 Bold in form and rich in hue,
 Children of a purer dew ;
 Smiling lips and winning eyes
 Meet for earthly paradise.

Choice are such,—and yet thou knowest
 Highest he whose lot is lowest.
 They, proud hearts, a home reject
 Framed by human architect ;
 Humble-I can bear to dwell
 Near the pale recluse's cell, 20
 And I spread my crimson bloom,
 Mingled with the cloister's gloom.

Life's gay gifts and honours rare,
Flowers of favour! win and wear!
Rose of beauty, be the queen
In pleasure's ring and festive scene.
Ivy, climb and cluster, where
Lordly oaks vouchsafe a stair.
Vaunt, fair Lily, stately dame,
Pride of birth and pomp of name. 30
Miser Crocus, starved with cold,
Hide in earth thy timid gold.
Travell'd Dahlia, freely boast
Knowledge brought from foreign coast.
Pleasure, wealth, birth, knowledge, power,
These have each an emblem flower;
So for me alone remains
Lowly thought and cheerful pains.

Be it mine to set restraint
On roving wish and selfish plaint; 40
And for man's drear haunts to leave
Dewy morn and balmy eve.
Be it mine the barren stone
To deck with green life not its own,
So to soften and to grace
Of human works the rugged face.
Mine, the Unseen to display
In the crowded public way,
Where life's busy arts combine
To shut out the Hand Divine. 50

Ah! no more a scentless flower,
By approving Heaven's high power,

Suddenly my leaves exhale
Fragrance of the Syrian gale.
Ah ! 't is timely comfort given
By the answering breath of Heaven !
May it be ! then well might I
In College cloister live and die.

Ulcombe.

October 2, 1827.

VI

THE TRANCE OF TIME

*Felix, qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas,
Atque metus omnes, et inexorabile fatum
Subjecit pedibus, strepitumque Acherontis avari!*

IN childhood, when with eager eyes
The season-measured year I view'd,
All, garb'd in fairy guise,
Pledged constancy of good.

Spring sang of heaven; the summer flowers
Bade me gaze on, and did not fade;
Even suns o'er autumn's bowers
Heard my strong wish, and stay'd.

They came and went, the short-lived four;
Yet, as their varying dance they wove, 10
To my young heart each bore
Its own sure claim of love.

Far different now;—the whirling year
Vainly my dizzy eyes pursue;
And its fair tints appear
All blent in one dusk hue.

Why dwell on rich autumnal lights,
Spring-time, or winter's social ring?
Long days are fire-side nights,
Brown autumn is fresh spring. 20

Then what this world to thee, my heart ?

Its gifts nor feed thee nor can bless.

Thou hast no owner's part

In all its fleetingness.

The flame, the storm, the quaking ground,

Earth's joy, earth's terror, naught is thine ;

Thou must but hear the sound

Of the still voice divine.

O priceless art ! O princely state !

E'en while by sense of change oppress'd, 30

Within to antedate

Heaven's Age of fearless rest.

Highwood.

October 1827.

VII

CONSOLATIONS IN BEREAVEMENT

DEATH was full urgent with thee, Sister dear,
 And startling in his speed ;—
 Brief pain, then languor till thy end came near—
 Such was the path decreed,
 The hurried road
 To lead thy soul from earth to thine own God's abode.

Death wrought with thee, sweet maid, impatiently :—
 Yet merciful the haste
 That baffles sickness ;—dearest, thou didst die,
 Thou wast not made to taste 10
 Death's bitterness,
 Decline's slow-wasting charm, or fever's fierce distress.

Death came unheralded :—but it was well ;
 For so thy Saviour bore
 Kind witness, thou wast meet at once to dwell
 On His eternal shore ;
 All warning spared,
 For none He gives where hearts are for prompt
 change prepared.

Death wrought in mystery ; both complaint and cure
 To human skill unknown :— 20
 God put aside all means, to make us sure
 It was His deed alone ;

Lest we should lay
 Reproach on our poor selves, that thou wast caught
 away.

Death urged as scant of time :—lest, Sister dear,
 We many a lingering day
 Had sicken'd with alternate hope and fear,
 The ague of delay ;
 Watching each spark 29
 Of promise quench'd in turn, till all our sky was dark.

Death came and went :—that so thy image might
 Our yearning hearts possess,
 Associate with all pleasant thoughts and bright,
 With youth and loveliness ;
 Sorrow can claim,
 Mary, nor lot nor part in thy soft soothing name.

Joy of sad hearts, and light of downcast eyes !
 Dearest, thou art enshrined
 In all thy fragrance in our memories ;
 For we must ever find 40
 Bare thought of thee
 Freshen this weary life, while weary life shall be.

VIII

A PICTURE

‘The maiden is not dead, but sleepeth.’

SHE is not gone ; still in our sight
That dearest maid shall live,
In form as true, in tints as bright,
As youth and health could give.

Still, still is ours the modest eye ;
The smile unwrought by art ;
The glance that shot so piercingly
Affection’s keenest dart ;

The thrilling voice, I ne’er could hear
But felt a joy and pain ;—
A pride that she was ours, a fear
Ours she might not remain ;

10

Whether the page divine call’d forth
Its clear, sweet, tranquil tone,
Or cheerful hymn, or seemly mirth
In sprightlier measure shown ;

The meek inquiry of that face,
Musing on wonders found,
As ’mid dim paths she sought to trace
The truth on sacred ground ;

20

The thankful sigh that would arise,
When aught her doubts removed,
Full sure the explaining voice to prize,
Admiring while she loved ;

The pensive brow, the world might see
When she in crowds was found ;
The burst of heart, the o'erflowing glee
When only friends were round ;

Hope's warmth of promise, prompt to fill
The thoughts with good in store, 30
Match'd with content's deep stream, which still
Flow'd on, when hope was o'er ;

That peace, which, with its own bright day,
Made cheapest sights shine fair ;
That purest grace, which track'd its way
Safe from aught earthly there.

Such was she in the sudden hour
That brought her Maker's call,—
Proving her heart's self-mastering power
Blithely to part with all,— 40

All her eye loved, all her hand press'd
With keen affection's glow,
The voice of home, all pleasures best,
All dearest thoughts below.

From friend-lit hearth, from social board,
All duteously she rose ;
For faith upon the Master's word
Can find a sure repose.

And in her wonder up she sped,
And tried relief in vain ;
Then laid her down upon her bed
Of languor and of pain,—

50

And waited till the solemn spell,
(A ling'ring night and day,)
Should fill its numbers, and compel
Her soul to come away.

Such was she then ; and such she is,
Shrined in each mourner's breast ;
Such shall she be, and more than this
In promised glory blest ;

60

When in due lines her Saviour dear
His scattered saints shall range,
And knit in love souls parted here,
Where cloud is none, nor change.

IX

OPUSCULUM

FOR A VERY SMALL ALBUM

FAIR Cousin, thy page
 is small to encage
 the thoughts which engage
 the mind of a sage
 such as I am ;

'Twere in teaspoon to take
 the whole Genovese lake,
 or a lap-dog to make
 the white Elephant sac-
 -red in Siam.

10

Yet inadequate though
 to the terms strange and so
 -lemn that figure in po-
 -lysyllabical row
 in a treatise ;

Still, true words and plain,
 of the heart, not the brain,
 in affectionate strain,
 this book to contain
 very meet is.

20

So I promise to be
a good Cousin to thee,
and to keep safe the se-
-cret I heard, although e-
-v'ry one know it ;

With a lyrical air
my kind thoughts I would dare,
and offer whate'er
beseems the news, were
I a poet.

30

*Brighton.**April 1829.*

X

A VOICE FROM AFAR

WEEP not for me ;—
 Be blithe as wont, nor tingè with gloom
 The stream of love that circles home,
 Light hearts and free !
 Joy in the gifts Heaven's bounty lends ;
 Nor miss my face, dear friends !.

 I still am near ;—
 Watching the smiles I prized on earth,
 Your converse mild, your blameless mirth ;
 Now too I hear
 Of whisper'd sounds the tale complete,
 Low prayers, and musings sweet.

 A sea before
 The Throne is spread ;—its pure still glass
 Pictures all earth-scenes as they pass.
 We, on its shore,
 Share, in the bosom of our rest,
 God's knowledge, and are blest.

Horsepath.

September 29, 1829.

XI

THE HIDDEN ONES

HED are the saints of God ;—
 Uncertified by high angelic sign ;
 Nor raiment soft, nor empire's golden rod
 Marks them divine.

Theirs but the unbought air, earth's parent sod,
And the sun's smile benign ;—
Christ rears His throne within the secret heart,
From the haughty world apart.

They gleam amid the night,
Chill sluggish mists stifling the heavenly ray ; 10
Fame chants the while,—old history trims his light,
 Aping the day ;
In vain ! staid look, loud voice, and reason's might
 Forcing its learnèd way,
Blind characters ! these aid us not to trace
 Christ and His princely race.

Yet not all-hid from those
Who watch to see ;—'neath their dull guise of earth,
Bright bursting gleams unwittingly disclose
 Their heaven-wrought birth. 20
Meekness, love, patience, faith's serene repose ;
 And the soul's tutor'd mirth,
Bidding the slow heart dance, to prove her power
 O'er self in its proud hour.

These are the chosen few,
The remnant fruit of largely-scatter'd grace,
God sows in waste, to reap whom He foreknew
 Of man's cold race ;
Counting on wills perverse, in His clear view
 Of boundless time and space, 30
He waits, by scant return for treasures given,
 To fill the thrones of heaven.

Lord ! who can trace but Thou
The strife obscure, 'twixt sin's soul-thralling spell
And Thy sharp Spirit, now quench'd, reviving now ?
 Or who can tell,
Why pardon's seal stands sure on David's brow,
 Why Saul and Demas fell ?
Oh ! lest our frail hearts in the annealing break,
 Help, for Thy mercy's sake ! 40

Horsepath.

September 1829.

XII

A THANKSGIVING

'Thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.'

LORD, in this dust Thy sovereign voice
First quicken'd love divine ;
I am all Thine,—Thy care and choice,
My very praise is Thine.

I praise Thee, while Thy providence
In childhood frail I trace,
For blessings given, ere dawning sense
Could seek or scan Thy grace ;

Blessings in boyhood's marvelling hour,
Bright dreams, and fancyings strange ; 10
Blessings, when reason's awful power
Gave thought a bolder range ;

Blessings of friends, which to my door
Unask'd, unhop'd, have come ;
And, choicer still, a countless store
Of eager smiles at home.

Yet, Lord, in memory's fondest place
I shrine those seasons sad,
When, looking up, I saw Thy face
In kind austereness clad.

I would not miss one sigh or tear,
Heart-pang, or throbbing brow ;
Sweet was the chastisement severe,
And sweet its memory now.

Yes ! let the fragrant scars abide,
Love-tokens in Thy stead,
Faint shadows of the spear-pierced side
And thorn-encompass'd head.

And such Thy tender force be still,
When self would swerve or stray, 30
Shaping to truth the froward will
Along Thy narrow way.

Deny me wealth ; far, far remove
The lure of power or name ;
Hope thrives in straits, in weakness love,
And faith in this world's shame.

Oxford.

October 1829.

FOR ANOTHER SMALL ALBUM

WHY, dear Cousin,
why

Ask for verses,
when a poet's
fount of song is
dry ?

Or, if aught be there,

Harsh and chill, it
ill may touch the
hand of lady

fair.
Who can perfumed waters
bring
From a convent
spring ?

‘ Monks in the olden
time,
They were rhymesters ? ’—
they were rhymesters,
but in Latin

rhyme.
Monks in the days of
old

Lived in secret,
in the Church's
kindly-sheltering

fold.

No bland meditators

they

30

Of a courtly

lay.

'They had visions

bright ?'—

they had visions,

yet not sent in

slumbers soft and

light.

No ! a lesson

stern

40

First by vigils,

fast, and penance,

theirs it was to

learn.

This their soul-ennobling

gain,

Joys wrought out by

pain.

'When from home they

stirr'd,

50

Sweet their voices ?'—

still, a blessing

closed their merriest

word ;

And their gayest

smile

Told of musings

solitary,

and the hallow'd

aisle.

60

'Songsters?'—hark! they answer!

round

Plaintive chantings

sound!

Grey his cowlèd

vest,

Whose strong heart has

pledged his service

to the cloister

blest.

70

Duly garb'd is

he,

As the frost-work

gems the branches

of yon stately

tree.

'T is a danger-thwarting

spell,

And it fits me

well!

80

XIV

EPIPHANY-EVE

A BIRTHDAY OFFERING

BIRTHDAY gifts, with the early year,
 Lo ! we bring thee, Mary dear !
 Prayer and praise upon thy death
 Twined together in a wreath,
 Grief and gladness, such as may
 Suit a solemn holiday.
 Christmas snow, for maiden's bloom
 Blanched in winter's sudden tomb ;
 Christmas berries, His red token
 Who that grave's stern seal hath broken ; 10
 These for thee the faithful heart,
 Due mementos, sets apart.

'Twas a fast, that Eve of sorrow,
 Herald veil'd of glorious morrow.
 Speechless we sat ; and watch'd, to know
 How it would be ; but time moved slow,
 Along that day of sacred woe.
 Then came the Feast, and we were told
 Bravely of our best to bring,
 Myrrh, and frankincense, and gold, 20
 As our tribute to our King.

Dearest, gentlest, purest, best !
 Deep is thy mysterious rest,

Now the solemn hours are over
And the Angels round thee hover,
With the fanning of their wings
Keeping time to one who sings
Of high themes consolatory,
Of the All-loving and His glory,
Of the age that has no ending, 30
Of the day of thy ascending
From those shades of paradise
To the bright supernal skies.

Thinkest of us, dearest, ever ?
Ah ! so be it naught can sever
Spirit and life, the past and present,
Still we yield thee musings pleasant.
—God above, and we below ;—
So thought ranges, to and fro.
He, in sooth, by tutorings mild, 40
From the rude clay shaped His child,
Fiery trial, anguish chill,
Served not here His secret will ;
But His voice was low and tender,
And so true was thy surrender,
That the work in haste was done,
Grace and nature blent in one.—
Harmless thus, and not unmeet,
To kiss the dear prints of thy feet,
Tracing thus the narrow road 50
All must tread, and Christ has trod.

Loveliest, meekest, blithest, kindest !
Lead ! we seek the home thou findest !

Though thy name to us most dear,
Go ! we would not have thee here.
Lead, a guiding beacon bright
To travellers on the Eve of Light.
Welcome ay thy Star before us,
Bring it grief or gladness o'er us ;—
Keen regret and tearful yearning, 60
Whiles unfelt, and whiles returning ;
Or more gracious thoughts abiding,
Fever-quelling, sorrow-chiding ;—
Or, when day-light blessings fail,
Transport fresh as spice-fraught gale,
Sparks from thee, which oft have lighted
Weary heart and hope benighted.

I this monument would raise,
Distant from the public gaze.
Few will see it ;—few e'er knew thee ; 70
But their beating hearts pursue thee,—
And their eyes fond thoughts betoken,
Though thy name be seldom spoken.
Pass on, stranger, and despise it !
These will read, and these will prize it.

XV

THE WINTER FLOWER

A BIRTHDAY OFFERING

(For Music.)

BLOOM, beloved Flower !—
 Unknown ;—'tis no matter.
 Courts glitter brief hour,
 Crowds can but flatter.

Plants in the garden
 See best the Sun's glory ;
 They miss the green sward in
 A conservatory.

—PRIZED WHERE'ER KNOWN.—
 Sure this is a blessing,
 Outrings the loud tone
 Of the dull world's caressing.

10

*Oxford.**December 30, 1830.*

XVII

SEEDS IN THE AIR

FOR AN ALBUM

'Igneus est ollis vigor, et coelestis origo
Seminibus.'

COULD I hit on a theme
To fashion my verse on,
Not long would I seem
A lack-courtesy person.
But I have not the skill,
Nor talisman strong,
To summon at will
The Spirit of song.—
Bright thoughts are roaming
Unseen in the air ;
Like comets, their coming
Is sudden and rare.
They strike, and they enter,
And light up the brain,
Which thrills to its centre
With rapturous pain.
Where the chance-seed
Is piously nursed,
Brighter succeed
In the path of the first.—
One sighs to the Muse,
Or the sweet nightingale,
One sips the night-dews
Which moon-beams exhale.

10

20

All this is a fiction ;
I never could find
A suitable friction
To frenzy my mind.
What use are empirics ?
No gas on their shelf
Can make one spout lyrics
In spite of oneself !

30

*Dartington.**July 18, 1831.*

XVIII

THE PILGRIM

FOR AN ALBUM

THERE stray'd awhile, amid the woods of Dart,
One who could love them, but who durst not love.
A vow had bound him, ne'er to give his heart
To streamlet bright, or soft secluded grove.
'Twas a hard humbling task, onwards to move
His easy-captured eyes from each fair spot,
With unattach'd and lonely step to rove
O'er happy meads, which soon its print forgot ;—
Yet kept he safe his pledge, prizing his pilgrim-lot.

Dartington.

July 21, 1831.

XIX

HOME

WHERE'ER I roam in this fair English land,
 The vision of a Temple meets my eyes :
 Modest without ; within, all-glorious rise
 Its love-encluster'd columns, and expand
 Their slender arms. Like olive-plants they stand,
 Each answ'ring each, in home's soft sympathies,
 Sisters and brothers. At the altar sighs
 Parental fondness, and with anxious hand
 Tenders its offering of young vows and prayers.
 The same, and not the same, go where I will, 10
 The vision beams ! ten thousand shrines, all one.
 Dear fertile soil ! what foreign culture bears
 Such fruit ? And I through distant climes may run
 My weary round, yet miss thy likeness still.

Oxford.

November 16, 1832.

THE BRAND OF CAIN

I BEAR upon my brow the sign
 Of sorrow and of pain ;
 Alas ! no hopeful cross is mine,
 It is the brand of Cain.

The course of passion, and the frot
 Of godless hope and fear,—
 Toil, care, and guilt,—their hues have set,
 And fix'd their sternness there.

Saviour ! wash out th' imprinted shame ;
 That I no more may pine,
 Sin's martyr, though not meet to claim
 Thy cross, a saint of Thine.

10

Oxford.

November 18, 1832.

XXI

ZEAL AND LOVE

AND would'st thou reach, rash scholar mine,
 Love's high unruffled state ?
 Awake ! thy easy dreams resign,
 First learn thee how to hate :—

Hatred of sin, and Zeal, and Fear,
 Lead up the Holy Hill ;
 Track them, till Charity appear
 A self-denial still.

Dim is the philosophic flame,
 By thoughts severe unfed : 10
 Book-lore ne'er served, when trial came,
 Nor gifts, when faith was dead,

Oxford.

November 20, 1832.

XXII

PERSECUTION

‘And the woman fled into the wilderness.’

SAY, who is he in deserts seen,
 Or at the twilight hour ?
 Of garb austere, and dauntless mien,
 Measured in speech, in purpose keen,
 Calm as in Heaven he had been,
 Yet blithe when perils lower.

My Holy Mother made reply,
 ‘Dear child, it is my Priest.
 The world has cast me forth, and I
 Dwell with wild earth and gusty sky ; 10
 He bears to men my mandates high.
 And works my sage behest.

‘Another day, dear child, and thou
 Shalt join his sacred band.
 Ah! well I deem, thou shrinkest now
 From urgent rule and severing vow ;
 Gay hopes flit round, and light thy brow :
 Time hath a taming hand !’

Oxford.

November 22, 1832.

XXIII

ZEAL AND PURITY

‘Come with me, and see my zeal for the Lord.’

THOU to wax fierce
 In the cause of the Lord,
 To threat and to pierce
 With the heavenly sword !
 Anger and Zeal,
 And the Joy of the brave,
 Who bade *thee* to feel,
 Sin’s slave ?

The Altar’s pure flame
 Consumes as it soars ;
 Faith meetly may blame,
 For it serves and adores.
 Thou warnest and smitest !
 Yet Christ must atone
 For a soul that thou slightest—
 Thine own.

10

Oxford.

November 23, 1832.

XXIV

THE GIFT OF PERSEVERANCE

ONCE, as I brooded o'er my guilty state,
 A fever seized me, duties to devise,
 To buy me interest in my Saviour's eyes ;
 Not that His love I would extenuate,
 But scourge and penance, masterful self hate,
 Or gift of cost, served by an artifice
 To quell my restless thoughts and envious sighs
 And doubts, which fain heaven's peace would ante-
 date.

Thus as I tossed, He said : ' E'on holiest deeds
 Shroud not the soul from God, nor soothe its needs ;
 Deny thee thine own fears, and wait the end ! ' 11
 Stern lesson ! Let me con it day by day,
 And learn to kneel before the Omniscient Ray,
 Nor shrink, when Truth's avenging shafts descend !

Oxford,

November 23, 1832.

XXV

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

WHENE'ER across this sinful flesh of mine

I draw the Holy Sign,

All good thoughts stir within me, and renew

Their slumbering strength divine ;

Till there springs up a courage high and true

To suffer and to do.

And who shall say, but hateful spirits around,

For their brief hour unbound,

Shudder to see, and wail their overthrow ?

While on far heathen ground

10

Some lonely Saint hails the fresh odour, though

Its source he cannot know.

Oxford.

November 25, 1832.

XXVI

THE SCARS OF SIN

My smile is bright, my glance is free,
 My voice is calm and clear ;
 Dear friend, I seem a type to thee
 Of holy love and fear.

But I am scann'd by Eyes unseen,
 And these no saint surround ;
 That mete what is by what has been,
 And joy the lost is found.

Erst my good Angel shrank to see
 My thoughts and ways of ill ; 10
 And now he scarce dare gaze on me,
 Scar-seam'd and crippled still.

Ifley.

November 29, 1832.

XXVII

ANGELIC GUIDANCE

ARE these the tracks of some unearthly Friend,
 His foot-prints, and his vesture-skirts of light,
 Who, as I talk with men, conforms aright
 Their sympathetic words, or deeds that blend
 With my hid thought ;—or stoops him to attend
 My doubtful-pleading grief ;—or blunts the might
 Of ill I see not ;—or in dreams of night
 Figures the scope, in which what is will end ?
 Were I Christ's own, then fitly might I call
 That vision real ; for to the thoughtful mind 10
 That walks with Him, He half unveils His face ;
 But, when on earth-stain'd souls such tokens fall,
 These dare not claim as theirs what there they find,
 Yet, not all hopeless, eye His boundless grace.

Whitchurch.

December 3, 1832.

XXVIII

SUBSTANCE AND SHADOW

THEY do but grope in learning's pedant round,
 Who on the fantasies of sense bestow
 An idol substance, bidding us bow low
 Before those shades of being which are found,
 Stirring or still, on man's brief trial-ground ;
 As if such shapes and moods, which come and go,
 Had aught of Truth or Life in their poor show,
 To sway or judge, and skill to sain or wound.
 Son of immortal seed, high-destin'd Man ! 9
 Know thy dread gift,—a creature, yet a cause :
 Each mind is its own centre, and it draws
 Home to itself, and moulds in its thought's span
 All outward things, the vassals of its will,
 Aided by Heaven, by earth unthwarted still.

Falmouth

December 7, 1832.

XXIX

WANDERINGS

ERE yet I left home's youthful shrine,
 My heart and hope were stored
 Where first I caught the rays divine,
 And drank the Eternal Word.

I went afar ; the world unroll'd
 Her many-pictur'd page ;
 I stor'd the marvels which she told,
 And trusted to her gage.

Her pleasures quaff'd, I sought awhile
 The scenes I prized before ;
 But parent's praise and sister's smile
 Stirr'd my cold heart no more.

10

So ever scar, so ever cloy
 Earth's favours as they fade ;
 Since Adam lost for one fierce joy
 His Eden's sacred shade.

Off the Lizard.

December 8, 1832.

xxx

THE SAINT AND THE HERO

O AGED Saint ! far off I heard
 The praises of thy name ;—
 Thy deed of power, thy prudent word,
 Thy zeal's triumphant flame.

I came and saw ; and, having seen,
 Weak heart, I drew offence
 From thy prompt smile, thy simple mien,
 Thy lowly diligence.

The Saint's is not the Hero's praise ;—
 This I have found, and learn
 Nor to malign Heaven's humblest ways,
 Nor its least boon to spurn.

10

Bay of Biscay.

December 10, 1832.

XXXI

PRIVATE JUDGEMENT

Poor wand'ers, ye are sore distress'd
 To find that path which Christ has bless'd
 Track'd by His saintly throng;
 Each claims to trust his own weak will,
 Blind idol!—so ye languish still,
 All wranglers and all wrong.

He saw of old, and met your need,
 Granting you prophets of His creed,
 The throes of fear to swage;
 They fenced the rich bequest He made, 10
 And sacred hands have safe convey'd
 Their charge from age to age.

Wand'ers! come home! obey the call!
 A Mother pleads, who ne'er let fall
 One grain of Holy Truth;
 Warn you and win she shall and must,
 For now she lifts her from the dust,
 To reign as in her youth!

Off Cape Ortegal.

December 11, 1832.

XXXII

THE ISLES OF THE SIRENS

CEASE, Stranger, cease those piercing notes,
 The craft of Siren choirs ;
 Hush the seductive voice, that floats
 Upon the languid wires.

Music's ethereal fire was given,
 Not to dissolve our clay,
 But draw Promethean beams from heaven,
 And purge the dross away.

Weak self ! with thee the mischief lies,
 Those throbs a tale disclose ; 10
 Nor age nor trial has made wise
 The Man of many woes.

Off Lisbon.

December 13, 1832.

XXXIII

MEMORY

My home is now a thousand miles away ;
 Yet in my thoughts its every image fair
 Rises as keen, as I still linger'd there,
 And, turning me, could all I loved survey.
 And so, upon Death's unaverted day,
 As I speed upwards, I shall on me bear,
 And in no breathless whirl, the things that were,
 And duties given, and ends I did obey.
 And, when at length I reach the Throne of Power,
 Ah ! still unscared, I shall in fulness see 10
 The vision of my past innumerable deeds,
 My deep heart-courses, and their motive-seeds,
 So to gaze on till the red dooming hour.
 Lord, in that strait, the Judge ! remember me !

Off Cape Trafalgar.

December 15, 1832.

XXXIV

THE HAVEN

WHENCE is this awe, by stillness spread
 O'er the world-fretted soul ?
 Wave rear'd on wave its godless head,
 While my keen bark, by breezes sped,
 Dash'd fiercely through the ocean bed,
 And chafed towards its goal.

But now there reigns so deep a rest,
 That I could almost weep.
 Sinner ! thou hast in this rare guest
 Of Adam's peace a figure blest ;
 'Tis Eden seen, though not possess'd,
 Which cherub-flames still keep.

10

Gibraltar.

December 16, 1832.

XXXV

A WORD IN SEASON

O LORD ! when sin's close-marshall'd line
 Assails Thy witness on his way,
 How should he raise Thy glorious sign,
 And how Thy will display ?

Thy holy Paul, with soul of flame,
 Rose on Mars' hill, a soldier lone ;
 Shall I thus speak th' Atoning Name,
 Though with a heart of stone ?

'Not so,' He said : 'hush thee, and seek,
 With thoughts in prayer and watchful eyes, 10
 My seasons sent for thee to speak,
 And use them as they rise.'

Gilruttan.

December 17, 1832.

XXXVI

FAIR WORDS

THY words are good, and freely given,
 As though thou felt them true ;
 Friend, think thee well, to hell or heaven
 A serious heart is due.

It pains thee sore, man's will should swerve
 In his true path divine ;
 And yet thou ventur'st naught to serve
 Thy neighbour's weal nor thine.

Beware ! such words may once be said,
 Where shame and fear unite ; 10
 But, spoken twice, they mark instead
 A sin against the light.

Gibraltar.

December 17, 1832.

XXXVII

ENGLAND

TYRE of the West, and glorying in the name
 More than in Faith's pure fame !
 O trust not crafty fort nor rock renown'd
 Earn'd upon hostile ground ;
 Wielding Trade's master-keys, at thy proud will
 To lock or loose its waters, England ! trust not still.

Dread thine own power ! Since haughty Babel's prime,
 High towers have been man's crime.
 Since her hoar age, when the huge moat lay baro,
 Strongholds have been man's snare. 10
 Thy nest is in the crags ; ah ! refuge frail !
 Mad counsel in its hour, or traitors, will prevail.

He who scann'd Sodom for His righteous men
 Still spares thee for thy ten ;
 But, should vain tongues the Bride of Heaven defy,
 He will not pass thee by ;
 For, as earth's kings welcome their spotless guest,
 So gives He them by turn, to suffer or be blest.

At Sea.

December 18, 1832.

XXXVIII

MOSES

MOSES, the patriot fierce, became
 The meekest man on earth,
 To show us how love's quick'ning flame
 Can give our souls new birth.

Moses, the man of meekest heart,
 Lost Canaan by self-will,
 To show, where Grace has done its part,
 How sin defiles us still.

Thou, who hast taught me in Thy fear,
 Yet seest me frail at best, 10
 O grant me loss with Moses here,
 To gain his future rest !

At Sea.

December 19, 1832.

XXXIX

THE PATIENT CHURCH

BIDE thou thy time !

Watch with meek eyes the race of pride and crime,

Sit in the gate, and be the heathen's jest

Smiling and self-possessed.

O thou, to whom is pledged a victor's sway,

Bide thou the victor's day !

Think on the sin ¹

That reap'd the unripe seed, and toil'd to win

Foul history-marks at Bethel and at Dan ;

No blessing, but a ban ; 10

Whilst the wise Shepherd ² hid his heaven-told fate,

Nor reck'd a tyrant's hate.

Such loss is gain ;

Wait the bright Advent that shall loose thy chain !

E'en now the shadows break, and gleams divine

Edge the dim distant line.

When thrones are trembling, and earth's fat ones quail,

True Seed ! thou shalt prevail ! 18

Off Algiers.

December 20, 1832.

¹ Jeroboam.

² David.

XL

JEREMIAH

‘ Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging-place of wayfaring men ; that I might leave my people, and go from them ! ’

‘ Woe’s me ! ’ the peaceful prophet cried,
 ‘ Spare me this troubled life ;
 To stem man’s wrath, to school his pride,
 To head the sacred strife !

‘ O place me in some silent vale,
 Where groves and flowers abound ;
 Nor eyes that grudge, nor tongues that rail,
 Vex the truth-haunted ground ! ’

If his meek spirit err’d, oppress
 That God denied repose,
 What sin is ours, to whom Heaven’s rest
 Is pledged, to heal earth’s woes ?

10

Off Galita.

December 22, 1832

XLI

PENANCE

MORTAL ! if e'er thy spirits faint,
 By grief or pain opprest,
 Seek not vain hope, or sour complaint,
 To cheer or ease thy breast ;

But view thy bitterest pangs as sent
 A shadow of that doom,
 Which is the soul's just punishment
 In its own guilt's true home.

Be thine own judge : hate thy proud heart ;
 And while the sad drops flow, 10
 E'en let thy will attend the smart,
 And sanctify thy woe.

Off Pantellaria.

December 23, 1832.

XLII

THE COURSE OF TRUTH

‘Him God raised up the third day, and shewed Him openly,
not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of
God.’

WHEN royal Truth, released from mortal throes,
Burst His brief slumber, and triumphant rose,
 Ill had the Holiest sued
 A patron multitude,
Or courted Tetrarch’s eye, or claim’d to rule
By the world’s winning grace, or proofs from learned
 school.

But, robing Him in viewless air, He told
His secret to a few of meanest mould ;
 They in their turn imparted
 The gift to men pure-hearted, 10
While the brute many heard His mysteries high,
As some strange fearful tongue, and crouch’d, they
 knew not why.

Still is the might of Truth, as it has been :
Lodged in the few, obey’d, and yet unseen.
 Rear’d on lone heights, and rare,
 His saints their watch-flame bear,
And the mad world sees the wide-circling blaze,
Vain searching whence it streams, and how to quench
 its rays. 18

XLIII

CHRISTMAS WITHOUT CHRIST

How can I keep my Christmas feast
 In its due festive show,
 Reft of the sight of the High Priest
 From whom its glories flow?

I hear the tuneful bells around,
 The blessed towers I see ;
 A stranger on a foreign ground,
 They peal a fast for me.

O Britons ! now so brave and high,
 How will ye weep the day
 When Christ in judgement passes by,
 And calls the Bride away !

10

Your Christmas then will lose its mirth,
 Your Easter lose its bloom :—
 Abroad, a scene of strife and dearth ;
 Within, a cheerless home !

*Malta.**December 25, 1832.*

XLIV

SLEEPLESSNESS

UNWEARIED God, before whose face
 The night is clear as day,
 Whilst we, poor worms, o'er life's scant race
 Now creep, and now delay,
 We with death's foretaste alternate
 Our labour's dint and sorrow's weight,
 Save in that fever-troubled state
 Where pain or care has sway.

Dread Lord ! Thy glory, watchfulness,
 Is but disease in man ; 10
 We to our cost our bounds transgress
 In Thy eternal plan :
 Pride grasps the powers by Thee display'd,
 Yet ne'er the rebel effort made
 But fell beneath the sudden shade
 Of nature's withering ban.

Malta.

December 26, 1832.

XLV

ABRAHAM

THE better portion didst thou choose, Great Heart,
 Thy God's first choice, and pledge of Gentile grace !
 Faith's truest type, he with unruffled face
 Bore the world's smile, and bade her slaves depart ;
 Whether, a trader, with no trader's art,
 He buys in Canaan his last resting-place,—
 Or freely yields rich Siddim's ample space,—
 Or braves the rescue, and the battle's smart,
 Yet scorns the heathen gifts of those he saved.
 O happy in their soul's high solitude, 10
 Who commune thus with God, and not with earth !
 Amid the scoffings of the wealth-enslaved,
 A ready prey, as though in absent mood
 They calmly move, nor reck the unmanner'd mirth.

At Sea.

December 27, 1832.

XLVII

THE WITNESS

How shall a child of God fulfil
 His vow to cleanse his soul from ill,
 And raise on high his baptism-light,
 Like Aaron's seed in vestment white,
 And holy-hearted Nazarite ?

First, let him shun the haunts of vice,
 Sin-feast, or heathen sacrifice ;
 Fearing the board of wealthy pride,
 Or heretic, self-trusting guide,
 Or where the adulterer's smiles preside. 10

Next, as he threads the maze of men,
 Aye must he lift his witness, when
 A sin is spoke in Heaven's dread face,
 And none at hand of higher grace
 The Cross to carry in his place.

But if he hears and sits him still,
 First, he will lose his hate of ill ;
 Next, fear of sinning, after hate ;
 Small sins his heart then desecrate ;
 And last, despair persuades to great. 20

XLVIII

THE DEATH OF MOSES

My Father's hope ! my childhood's dream !

The promise from on high !

Long waited for ! its glories beam

Now when my death is nigh.

My death is come, but not decay ;

Nor eye nor mind is dim ;

The keenness of youth's vigorous day

Thrills in each nerve and limb.

Blest scene ! thrice welcome after toil—

If no deceit I view ;

10

O might my lips but press the soil,

And prove the vision true !

Its glorious heights, its wealthy plains,

Its many-tinted groves,

They call ! but He my steps restrains

Who chastens whom He loves.

Ah ! now they melt . . . they are but shades . . .

I die !—yet is no rest,

O Lord ! in store, since Canaan fades

But seen, and not possess ?

20

XLIX

MELCHIZEDEK

‘ Without father, without mother, without descent ; having
neither beginning of days, nor end of life.’

THRICE bless'd are they, who feel their loneliness ;
To whom nor voice of friends nor pleasant scene
Brings that on which the sadden'd heart can lean ;
Yea, the rich earth, garb'd in her daintiest dress
Of light and joy, doth but the more oppress,
Claiming responsive smiles and rapture high ;
Till, sick at heart, beyond the veil they fly,
Seeking His Presence, who alone can bless.
Such, in strange days, the weapons of Heaven's grace ;
When, passing o'er the high-born Hebrew line,
He forms the vessel of His vast design ; 11
Fatherless, homeless, reft of age and place,
Sever'd from earth, and careless of its wreck,
Born through long woe His rare Melchizedek.

Corfu.

January 5, 1833.

L

CORCYRA

I SAT beneath an olive's branches grey,
 And gazed upon the site of a lost town,
 By sage and poet raised to long renown ;
 Where dwelt a race that on the sea held sway,
 And, restless as its waters, forced a way
 For civil strife a hundred states to drown.
 That multitudinous stream we now note down
 As though one life, in birth and in decay.
 But is their being's history spent and run,
 Whose spirits live in awful singleness, 10
 Each in its self-form'd sphere of light or gloom ?
 Henceforth, while pondering the fierce deeds then
 done,
 Such reverence on me shall its seal impress
 As though I corpses saw, and walk'd the tomb.

At Sea.

January 7, 1833.

LI

TRANSFIGURATION

‘They glorified God in me.’

I SAW thee once, and nought discern’d
 For stranger to admire ;
 A serious aspect, but it burn’d
 With no unearthly fire.

Again I saw, and I confess’d
 Thy speech was rare and high ;
 And yet it vex’d my burden’d breast,
 And scared, I knew not why.

I saw once more, and awe-struck gazed
 On face, and form, and air ; 10
 God’s living glory round thee blazed—
 A Saint—a Saint was there !

Off Zante.

January 8, 1833.

LII

BEHIND THE VEIL

BANISH'D the House of sacred rest.
 Amid a thoughtless throng,
 At length I heard its creed confess'd,
 And knelt the saints among.

Artless his strain and unadorn'd,
 Who spoke Christ's message there ;
 But what at home I might have scorn'd,
 Now charm'd my famish'd ear.

Lord, grant me this abiding grace,
 Thy Word and sons to know ;
 To pierce the veil on Moses' face,
 Although his speech be slow.

10

*At Sea.**January 9, 1833.*

LIII

JUDGEMENT

IF e'er I fall beneath Thy rod,
 As through life's snares I go,
 Save me from David's lot, O God!
 And choose Thyself the woe.

How should I face Thy plagues? which scare,
 And haunt, and stun, until
 The heart or sinks in mute despair,
 Or names a random ill.

If else . . . then guide in David's path,
 Who chose the holier pain; 10
 Satan and man are tools of wrath,
 An Angel's scourge is gain.

Off Malta.

January 10, 1833.

LIV

SENSITIVENESS

TIME was, I shrank from what was right
 From fear of what was wrong ;
 I would not brave the sacred fight,
 Because the foe was strong.

But now I cast that finer sense
 And sorer shame aside ;
 Such dread of sin was indolence,
 Such aim at Heaven was pride.

So, when my Saviour calls, I rise
 And calmly do my best ;
 Leaving to Him, with silent eyes
 Of hope and fear, the rest.

10

I step, I mount where He has led ;
 Men count my haltings o'er ;—
 I know them ; yet, though self I dread,
 I love His precept more.

Lazaret, Malta.

January 15, 1833.

LV

DAVID AND JONATHAN

'Thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.'

O HEART of fire ! misjudged by wilful man,
 Thou flower of Jesse's race !
 What woe was thine, when thou and Jonathan
 Last greeted face to face !
 He doom'd to die, thou on us to impress
 The portent of a blood-stain'd holiness.

Yet it was well :—for so, 'mid cares of rule
 And crime's encircling tide,
 A spell was o'er thee, zealous one, to cool
 Earth-joy and kingly pride ; 10
 With battle-scene and pageant, prompt to blend
 The pale calm spectre of a blameless friend.

Ah ! had he lived, before thy throne to stand,
 Thy spirit keen and high
 Sure it had snapp'd in twain love's slender band,
 So dear in memory ;
 Paul, of his comrade reft, the warning gives,—
 He lives to us who dies, he is but lost who lives.

Lazaret, Malta.

January 16, 1833

LVI

HUMILIATION

I HAVE been honour'd and obey'd,
 I have met scorn and slight ;
 And my heart loves earth's sober shade,
 More than her laughing light.

For what is rule but a sad weight
 Of duty and a snare ?
 What meanness, but with happier fate
 The Saviour's Cross to share ?

This my hid choice, if not from heaven,
 Moves on the heavenward line ; 10
 Cleanse it, good Lord, from earthly leaven,
 And make it simply Thine.

Lazaret, Malta.

January 16, 1833.

LVII

THE CALL OF DAVID

'And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him, for this is he.'

LATEST born of Jesse's race,
Wonder lights thy bashful face,
While the Prophet's gifted oil
Seals thee for a path of toil.
We, thy Angels, circling round thee,
Ne'er shall find thee as we found thee,
When thy faith first brought us near
In thy lion-fight severe.

Go! and mid thy flocks awhile
At thy doom of greatness smile; 10
Bold to bear God's heaviest load,
Dimly guessing of the road,—
Rocky road, and scarce ascended,
Though thy foot be angel-tended.

Twofold praise thou shalt attain,
In royal court and battle plain ;
Then comes heart-ache, care, distress,
Blighted hope, and loneliness ;
Wounds from friend and gifts from foe,
Dizzied faith, and guilt, and woe ; 20
Loftiest aims by earth defiled,
Gleams of wisdom sin-beguiled,

Sated power's tyrannic mood,
Counsels shared with men of blood,
Sad success, parental tears,
And a dreary gift of years.

Strange, that guileless face and form
To lavish on the scarring storm !
Yet we take thee in thy blindness,
And we buffet thee in kindness ; 30
Little chary of thy fame,—
Dust unborn may bless or blame,—
But we mould thee for the root
Of man's promised healing Fruit,
And we mould thee hence to rise,
As our brother, to the skies.

Lazaret, Malta.

January 18, 1833.

LVIII

A BLIGHT

WHAT time my heart unfolded its fresh leaves
 In springtime gay, and scatter'd flowers around,
 A whisper warn'd of earth's unhealthy ground,
 And all that there love's light and pureness grieves ;
 Sun's ray and canker-worm,
 And sudden-whelming storm ;—
 But, ah ! my self-will smiled, nor reck'd the gracious
 sound.

So now defilement dims life's memory-springs ;
 I cannot hear an early-cherish'd strain,
 But first a joy, and then it brings a pain— 10
 Fear, and self-hate, and vain remorseful stings :
 Tears lull my grief to rest,
 Not without hope, this breast
 May one day lose its load, and youth yet bloom
 again.

Lazaret, Malta.

January 19, 1833.

LIX

JOSEPH

O PUREST Symbol of the Eternal Son !
 Who dwelt in thee, as in some sacred shrine,
 To draw hearts after thee, and make them thine ;
 Not parent only by that light was won,
 And brethren crouch'd who had in wrath begun,
 But heathen pomp abased her at the sign
 Of a hid God, and drank the sound divine,
 Till a king heard, and all thou bad'st was done.
 Then was fulfill'd Nature's dim augury,
 That ' Wisdom, clad in visible form, would be 10
 So fair, that all must love and bow the knee ' ;
 Lest it might seem, what time the Substance came,
 Truth lack'd a sceptre, when It but laid by
 Its beaming front, and bore a willing shame.

Lazaret, Malta.

January 20, 1833.

LX

ISAAC

MANY the guileless years the Patriarch spent,
 Bless'd in the wife a father's foresight chose ;
 Many the prayers and gracious deeds, which rose
 Daily thank-offerings from his pilgrim tent.
 Yet these, though written in the heavens, are rent
 From out truth's lower roll, which sternly shows
 But one sad trespass at his history's close,
 Father's, son's, mother's, and its punishment.
 Not in their brightness, but their earthly stains
 Are the true seed vouchsafed to earthly eyes. 10
 Sin can read sin, but dimly scans high grace,
 So we move heavenward with averted face,
 Scared into faith by warning of sin's pains ;
 And Saints are lowered, that the world may rise.

Valletta.

January 23, 1833.

LXI

REVERSES

WHEN mirth is full and free,
 Some sudden gloom shall be ;
 When haughty power mounts high,
 The Watcher's axe is nigh.
 All growth has bound ; when greatest found,
 It hastes to die.

When the rich town, that long
 Has lain its huts among,
 Uprears its pageants vast,
 And vaunts—it shall not last ! 10
 Bright tints that shine, are but a sign
 Of summer past.

And when thine eye surveys,
 With fond adoring gaze,
 And yearning heart, thy friend—
 Love to its grave doth tend.
 All gifts below, save Truth, but grow
 Towards an end. 18

LXII

HOPE

WE are not children of a guilty sire,
 Since Noe stepp'd from out his wave-toss'd home,
 And a stern baptism flush'd earth's faded bloom.
 Not that the heavens then clear'd, or cherub's fire
 From Eden's portal did at once retire ;
 But thoughts were stirr'd of Him who was to come,
 Whose rainbow hues so streak'd the o'ershadowing
 gloom,
 That faith could e'en that desolate scene admire.
 The Lord has come and gone ; and now we wait
 The second substance of the deluge type, 10
 When our slight ark shall cross a molten surge ;
 So, while the gross earth melts, for judgement ripe,
 Ne'er with its haughty turrets to emerge,
 We shall mount up to Eden's long-lost gate.

Valletta.

February 5, 1833.

LXIII

ST. PAUL AT MELITA

‘ And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them
on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat.’

SECURE in his prophetic strength,
The water peril o’er,
The many-gifted man at length
Stepp’d on the promised shore.

He trod the shore ; but not to rest,
Nor wait till Angels came ;
Lo ! humblest pains the Saint attest,
The firebrands and the flame.

But, when he felt the viper’s smart,
Then instant aid was given ; 10
Christian ! hence learn to do thy part,
And leave the rest to Heaven.

Messina.

February 8, 1833.

LXIV

MESSINA

'Homo sum ; humani nil à me alienum puto.'

WHY, wedded to the Lord, still yearns my heart
 Towards these scenes of ancient heathen fame ?
 Yet legend hoar, and voice of bard that came
 Fixing my restless youth with its sweet art,
 And shades of power, and those who bore a part
 In the mad deeds that set the world in flame,
 So fret my memory here,—ah ! is it blame ?—
 That from my eyes the tear is fain to start.
 Nay, from no fount impure these drops arise ;
 'Tis but that sympathy with Adam's race 10
 Which in each brother's history reads its own.
 So let the cliffs and seas of this fair place
 Be named man's tomb and splendid record stone,
 High hope, pride-stain'd, the course without the prize.

Messina.

February 9, 1833.

LXV

WARNINGS

WHEN Heaven sends sorrow,
 Warnings go first,
 Lest it should burst
 With stunning might
 On souls too bright
 To fear the morrow.

Can science bear us
 To the hid springs
 Of human things ?
 Why may not dream,
 Or thought's day-gleam,
 Startle, yet cheer us ?

10

Are such thoughts fetters,
 While Faith disowns
 Dread of earth's tones,
 Recks but Heaven's call,
 And on the wall
 Reads but Heaven's letters ?

Between Calatafimi and Palermo.

February 12, 1833.

LXVI

DREAMS

OH ! miserable power
 To dreams allow'd, to raise the guilty past,
 And back awhile the illumined spirit to cast
 On its youth's twilight hour ;
 In mockery guiling it to act again
 The revel or the scoff in Satan's frantic train !

Nay, hush thee, angry heart !
 An Angel's grief ill fits a penitent ;
 Welcome the thorn—it is divinely sent,
 And with its wholesome smart 10
 Shall pierce thee in thy virtue's palmy home,
 And warn thee what thou art, and whence thy
 wealth has come.

Paestum.

February 26, 1833.

LXVII

TEMPTATION

O HOLY Lord, who with the Children Three
 Didst walk the piercing flame,
 Help, in those trial-hours, which, save to Thee,
 I dare not name ;
 Nor let these quivering eyes and sickening heart
 Crumble to dust beneath the Tempter's dart.

Thou, who didst once Thy life from Mary's breast
 Renew from day to day,
 O might her smile, severely sweet, but rest
 On this frail clay ! 10
 Till I am Thine with my whole soul ; and fear,
 Not feel a secret joy, that Hell is near.

Frascati.

March 28, 1833.

LXVIII

OUR FUTURE

‘What I do, thou knowest not now ; but thou shalt know
hereafter.’

DID we but see,
When life first open’d, how our journey lay
Between its earliest and its closing day,
Or view ourselves, as we one time shall be,
Who strive for the high prize, such sight would break
The youthful spirit, though bold for Jesus’ sake.

But Thou, dear Lord !
Whilst I traced out bright scenes which were to come,
Isaac’s pure blessings, and a verdant home, 9
Didst spare me, and withhold Thy fearful word ;
Wiling me year by year, till I am found
A pilgrim pale, with Paul’s sad girdle bound.

Tre Fontane.

. April 2, 1833.

LXIX

HEATHENISM

MID Balak's magic fires
 The Spirit spake, clear as in Israel ;
 With prayers untrue and covetous desires
 Did God vouchsafe to dwell ;
 Who summon'd dreams, His earlier word to bring
 To patient Job's vex'd friends, and Gerar's guileless
 king.

If such o'erflowing grace
 From Aaron's vest e'en on the Sibyl ran,
 Why should we fear, the Son now lacks His place
 Where roams unchristen'd man ? 10
 As though, when faith is keen, He cannot make
 Bread of the very stones, or thirst with ashes slake.

Messina.

April 21, 1833.

LXX

TAORMINI

'And Jacob went on his way, and the Angels of God met him.'

SAY, hast thou track'd a traveller's round,
 Nor visions met thee there,
 Thou couldst but marvel to have found
 This blighted world so fair ?

And feel an awe within thee rise,
 That sinful man should see
 Glories far worthier Seraph's eyes
 Than to be shared by thee ?

Store them in heart ! thou shalt not faint
 'Mid coming pains and fears, 10
 As the third heaven once nerved a Saint
 For fourteen trial-years.

Magnisi.

April 26, 1833.

LXXI

RELICS OF SAINTS

‘He is not the God of the dead, but of the living ; for all live
unto Him.’

‘THE Fathers are in dust, yet live to God :’—

So says the Truth ; as if the motionless clay
Still held the seeds of life beneath the sod,
Smouldering and struggling till the judgement-day.

And hence we learn with reverence to esteem
Of these frail houses, though the grave confines ;
Sophist may urge his cunning tests, and deem
That they are earth ;—but they are heavenly
shrines.

Palermo.

June 1, 1833.

LXXII

DAY-LABOURERS

'And He said, It is finished.'

ONE only, of God's messengers to man,
Finish'd the work of grace, which He began ;
E'en Moses wearied upon Nebo's height,
 Though loth to leave the fight
With the doom'd foe, and yield the sun-bright land
 To Joshua's armèd hand.

And David wrought in turn a strenuous part,
Zeal for God's house consuming him in heart ;
And yet he might not build, but only bring
 Gifts for the Heavenly King ; 10
And these another rear'd, his peaceful son,
Till the full work was done.

List, Christian warrior ! thou, whose soul is fain
To rid thy Mother of her present chain ;—
Christ will avenge His Bride ; yea, even now
Begins the work, and thou
Shalt spend in it thy strength, but, ere He save,
Thy lot shall be the grave.

Palermo.

June 2, 1833.

LXXIII

WARFARE

‘Freely ye have received ; freely give.’

‘GIVE any boon for peace !
Why should our fair-eyed Mother e’er engage
In the world’s course and on a troubled stage,
From which her very call is a release ?

No ! in thy garden stand,
And tend with pious hand
The flowers thou plantest there,
Which are thy proper care,
O man of God ! in meekness and in love,
And waiting for the blissful realms above.’ 10

Alas ! for thou must learn,
Thou guileless one ! rough is the holy hand ;
Runs not the Word of Truth through every land,
A sword to sever, and a fire to burn ?

If blessèd Paul had stay’d
In cot or learned shade,
With the priest’s white attire,
And the Saints’ tuneful choir,
Men had not gnash’d their teeth, nor risen to slay,
But thou hadst been a heathen in thy day. 20

LXXIV

SACRILEGE

THE Church shone brightly in her youthful days,
 Ere the world on her smiled ;
 So now, an outcast, she would pour her rays
 Keen, free, and undefiled :
 Yet would I not that arm of force were mine,
 Which thrusts her from her awful ancient shrine.

'Twas duty bound each convert-king to rear
 His Mother from the dust,
 And pious was it to enrich, nor fear
 Christ for the rest to trust ; 10
 And who shall dare make common or unclean
 What once has on the Holy Altar been ?

Dear brothers !—hence, while ye for ill prepare,
 Triumph is still your own ;
 Blest is a pilgrim Church !—yet shrink to share
 The curse of throwing down.
 So will we toil in our old place to stand, 17
 Watching, not dreading, the despoiler's hand.

Palermo.

June 4, 1833.

LXXV

LIBERALISM

'Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel. Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan.'

YE cannot halve the Gospel of God's grace ;
 Men of presumptuous heart ! I know you well.
 Ye are of those who plan that we should dwell,
 Each in his tranquil home and holy place ;
 Seeing the Word refines all natures rude,
 And tames the stirrings of the multitude.

And ye have caught some echoes of its lore,
 As heralded amid the joyous choirs ;
 Ye mark'd it spoke of peace, chastised desires,
 Good-will and mercy,—and ye heard no more ;
 But, as for zeal and quick-eyed sanctity, 11
 And the dread depths of grace, ye pass'd them by.

And so ye halve the Truth ; for ye in heart,
 At best, are doubters whether it be true,
 The theme discarding, as unmeet for you,
 Statesmen or Sages. O new-encompass'd art
 Of the ancient Foe !—but what, if it extends
 O'er our own camp, and rules amid our friends ?

LXXVI

DECLENSION

WHEN I am sad, I say,

‘ What boots it me to strive,
And vex my spirit day by day,
Dead memories to revive ?

‘ Alas ! what good will come,
Though we our prayer obtain,
To bring old times triumphant home,
And wandering flocks regain ?

‘ Would not our history run
In the same weary round,
And service in meek faith begun,
At length in forms be bound ?

10

‘ Union would give us strength—
That strength the earth subdue ;
And then comes wealth, and pride at length,
And sloth, and prayers untrue.’

Nay, this is worldly-wise ;
To reason is a crime,
Since the Lord bade His Church arise,
In the dark ancient time.

20

He wills that she should shine ;
So we her flame must trim
Around His soul-converting Sign,
And leave the rest to Him.

LXXVII

THE AGE TO COME

WHEN I would search the truths that in me burn,
 And mould them into rule and argument,
 A hundred reasoners cried,—‘ Hast thou to learn
 Those dreams are scatter’d now, those fires are
 spent ? ’

And, did I mount to simpler thoughts, and try
 Some theme of peace, ’twas still the same reply.

Perplex’d, I hoped my heart was pure of guile,
 But judged me weak in wit, to disagree ;
 But now, I see that men are mad awhile,

And joy the Age to come will think with me :—
 ’Tis the old history—Truth without a home, II
 Despised and slain, then rising from the tomb.

Palermo.

June 9, 1833.

LXXVIII

EXTERNAL RELIGION

WHEN first earth's rulers welcomed home
 The Church, their zeal impress'd
 Upon the seasons, as they come,
 The image of their guest.

Men's words and works, their hopes and fears,
 Henceforth forbid to rove,
 Paused, when a Martyr claim'd her tears,
 Or Saint inspired her love.

But craving wealth, and feverish power,
 Such service now discard ; 10
 The loss of one excited hour
 A sacrifice too hard !

And e'en about the holiest day,
 God's own in every time,
 They doubt and search, lest ought should stay
 The cataract of crime.

Where shall this cease ? must crosiers fall,
 Shrines suffer touch profane,
 Till, cast without His vineyard wall,
 The Heaven-sent Heir is slain ? 20

LXXIX

ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN

PEACE-LOVING man, of humble heart and true !

What dost thou here ?

Fierce is the city's crowd ; the lordly few

Are dull of ear !

Sore pain it was to thee,—till thou didst quit

Thy patriarch-throne at length, as though for power
unfit.

So works the All-wise ! our services dividing

Not as we ask :

For the world's profit, by our gifts deciding

Our duty-task.

10

See in king's courts loth Jeremiah plead ;

And slow-tongued Moses rule by eloquence of deed !

Yes ! thou, bright Angel of the East ! didst rear

The Cross divine,

Borne high upon thy liquid accents, where

Men mock'd the Sign ;

Till that cold city heard thy battle-cry,

And hearts were stirr'd, and deem'd a Pentecost was
nigh.

Thou couldst a people raise, but couldst not rule :—

So, gentle one,

20

Heaven set thee free,—for, ere thy years were full,

Thy work was done ;

According thee the lot thou lovedst best,

To muse upon the past,—to serve, yet be at rest.

Palermo.

June 12, 1833.

LXXX

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

OH that thy creed were sound !¹
 For thou dost soothe the heart, Thou Church of Rome,
 By thy unwearied watch and varied round
 Of service, in thy Saviour's holy home.
 I cannot walk the city's sultry streets,
 But the wide porch invites to still retreats,
 Where passion's thirst is calm'd, and care's unthank-
 ful gloom.

There, on a foreign shore,
 The homesick solitary finds a friend :
 Thoughts, prison'd long for lack of speech, outpour
 Their tears ; and doubts in resignation end. 11
 I almost fainted from the long delay
 That tangles me within this languid bay,
 When comes a foe, my wounds with oil and wine
 to tend.

Palermo.

June 13, 1833.

¹ Of course this is the exclamation of one who was not in Catholic Communion.

LXXXI

THE PILLAR OF THE CLOUD

LEAD, Kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,

Lead Thou me on !

The night is dark, and I am far from home—

Lead Thou me on !

Keep Thou my feet ; I do not ask to see

The distant scene,—one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor pray'd that Thou

Shouldst lead me on.

2

I loved to choose and see my path ; but now

Lead Thou me on !

I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,

Pride ruled my will : remember not past years.

So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still

Will lead me on,

O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till

The night is gone ;

16

And with the morn those angel faces smile

Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

At Sea.

June 16, 1833.

LXXXII

JONAH

‘ But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish, from the presence
of the Lord.’

DEEP in his meditative bower,
The tranquil seer reclined ;
Numbering the creepers of an hour,
The gourds which o’er him twined.

To note each plant, to rear each fruit
Which soothes the languid sense,
He deem’d a safe, refined pursuit,—
His Lord, an indolence.

The sudden voice was heard at length,
‘ Lift thou the prophet’s rod !’ 10
But sloth had sapp’d the prophet’s strength,
He fear’d, and fled from God.

Next, by a fearful judgement tamed,
He threatens the offending race ;
God spares ;—he murmurs, pride-inflamed,
His threat made void by grace.

What ?—pride and sloth ! man’s worst of foes !
And can such guests invade
Our choicest bliss, the green repose
Of the sweet garden-shade ? 20

LXXXIII

FAITH AGAINST SIGHT

‘ As it was in the days of Lot, so shall it be also in the day of the
Son of Man.’

THE world has cycles in its course, when all
That once has been, is acted o’er again :—
Not by some fated law, which need appal
Our faith, or binds our deeds as with a chain ;
But by men’s separate sins, which blended still
The same bad round fulfil.

Then fear ye not, though Gallio’s scorn ye see,
And soft-clad nobles count you mad, true hearts !
These are the fig-tree’s signs ;—rough deeds must be,
Trials and crimes : so learn ye well your parts.
Once more to plough ‘the earth it is decreed, 11
And scatter wide the seed.

Off Sardinia.

June 18, 1833.

LXXXIV

DESOLATION

O SAY not thou art left of God,
 Because His tokens in the sky
 Thou canst not read : this earth He trod
 To teach thee He was ever nigh.

He sees, beneath the fig-tree green,
 Nathaniel con His sacred lore ;
 Shouldst thou thy chamber seek, unseen,
 He enters through the unopen'd door.

And when thou liest, by slumber bound,
 Outwearied in the Christian fight, 10
 In glory, girt with Saints around,
 He stands above thee through the night.

When friends to Emmaus bend their course,
 He joins, although He holds their eyes :
 Or, shouldst thou feel some fever's force,
 He takes thy hand, He bids thee rise.

Or on a voyage, when calms prevail,
 And prison thee upon the sea,
 He walks the wave, He wings the sail,
 The shore is gain'd, and thou art free. 20

— LXXXV

ZEAL AND PATIENCE

‘I, Paul, the prisoner of the Lord.’

O COMRADE bold of toil and pain !
 Thy trial how severe,
 When sever'd first by prisoner's chain
 From thy loved labour-sphere !

Say, did impatience first impel
 The heaven-sent bond to break ?
 Or, couldst thou bear its hindrance well,
 Loitering for Jesu's sake ?

O might we know ! for sore we feel
 The languor of delay,
 When sickness lets our fainter zeal,
 Or foes block up our way.

10

Lord ! who Thy thousand years dost wait
 To work the thousandth part
 Of Thy vast plan, for us create
 With zeal a patient heart.

*Off Sardinia.**June 19, 1833.*

LXXXVI

THE RELIGION OF CAIN

‘ Am I my brother’s keeper ? ’

THE time has been, it seem’d a precept plain
 Of the true faith, Christ’s tokens to display ;
 And in life’s commerce still the thought retain,
 That men have souls, and wait a judgement-day ;
 Kings used their gifts as ministers of heaven,
 Nor stripp’d their zeal for God, of means which God
 had given.

’Tis alter’d now ;—for Adam’s eldest born
 Has train’d our practice in a selfish rule,
 Each stands alone, Christ’s bonds asunder torn ;
 Each has his private thought, selects his school,
 Conceals his creed, and lives in closest tie 11
 Of fellowship with those who count it blasphemy.

Brothers ! spare reasoning ;—men have settled long
 That ye are out of date, and they are wise ;
 Use their own weapons ; let your words be strong,
 Your cry be loud, till each scared boaster flies ;
 Thus the Apostles tamed the pagan breast,
 They argued not, but preach’d ; and conscience did
 the rest.

LXXXVII

ST. PAUL

I DREAM'D that, with a passionate complaint,
 I wish'd me born amid God's deeds of might ;
 And envied those who had the presence bright
 Of gifted Prophet and strong-hearted Saint,
 Whom my heart loves, and Fancy strives to paint.
 I turn'd, when straight a stranger met my sight,
 Came as my guest, and did awhile unite
 His lot with mine, and lived without restraint.
 Courteous he was, and grave,—so meek in mien,
 It seem'd untrue, or told a purpose weak ; 10
 Yet, in the mood, he could with aptness speak,
 Or with stern force, or show of feelings keen,
 Marking deep craft, methought, or hidden pride :—
 Then came a voice,—‘ St. Paul is at thy side.’

Off Sardinia.

June 20, 1833.

LXXXVIII

FLOWERS WITHOUT FRUIT

PRUNE thou thy words, the thoughts control
 That o'er thee swell and throng ;
 They will condense within thy soul,
 And change to purpose strong.

But he who lets his feelings run
 In soft luxurious flow,
 Shrinks when hard service must be done,
 And faints at every woe.

Faith's meanest deed more favour bears,
 Where hearts and wills are weigh'd, 10
 Than brightest transports, choicest prayers,
 Which bloom their hour and fade.

Off Sardinia.

June 20, 1833.

LXXXIX

ZEAL AND MEEKNESS

CHRIST bade His followers take the sword ;
 And yet He chid the deed,
 When hasty Peter seized His word,
 And made a foe to bleed.

The gospel Creed, a sword of strife,
 Meek hands alone may rear ;
 And ever Zeal begins its life
 In silent thought and fear.

Ye, who would weed the Vineyard's soil,
 Treasure the lesson given ; 10
 Lest in the judgement-books ye toil
 For Satan, not for heaven.

Off Sardinia.

June 20, 1833.

XO

VEXATIONS

EACH trial has its weight ; which, whoso bears
 Knows his own woe, and need of succouring
 grace ;

The martyr's hope half wipes away the trace
 Of flowing blood ; the while life's humblest cares
 Smart more, because they hold in Holy Writ no place.

This be my comfort, in these days of grief,
 Which is not Christ's, nor forms heroic tale.
 Apart from Him, if not a sparrow fail,
 May not He pitying view, and send relief
 When foes or friends perplex, and peevish thoughts
 prevail ? 10

Then keep good heart, nor take the niggard course
 Of Thomas, who must see ere he would trust.
 Faith will fill up God's word, not poorly just
 To the bare letter, heedless of its force,
 But walking by its light amid earth's sun and dust.

Off Sardinia.

June 21, 1833.

— XCI

THE CHURCH IN PRAYER

WHY loiterest within Simon's walls,
 Hard by the barren sea,
 Thou Saint ! when many a sinner calls
 To preach and set him free ?

Can this be he, who erst confess'd
 For Christ affection keen,
 Now truant in untimely rest,
 The mood of an Essene ?

Yet he who at the sixth hour sought
 The lone house-top to pray, 10
 There gain'd a sight beyond his thought,
 The dawn of Gentile day.

Then reckon not, when perils lour,
 The time of prayer misspent ;
 Nor meanest chance, nor place, nor hour,
 Without its heavenward bent.

Off Sardinia.

June 21, 1833.

XCII

THE WRATH TO COME

‘From His mouth came out a sharp two-edged sword.’

WHEN first God stirr’d me, and the Church’s word
 Came as a theme of reverent search and fear,
 It little cost to own the lustre clear
 O’er rule she taught, and rite, and doctrine pour’d ;
 For conscience craved, and reason did accord.

Yet one there was that wore a mien austere,
 And I did doubt, and, troubled, ask’d to hear
 Whose mouth had force to edge so sharp a sword.
 My mother oped her trust, the holy Book ;
 And heal’d my pang. She pointed, and I found
 Christ on Himself, considerate Master, took 11
 The utterance of that doctrine’s fearful sound.
 The Fount of Love His servants sends to tell
 Love’s deeds ; Himself reveals the sinner’s hell.

Off Sardinia.

June 21, 1833.

XCIII

PUSILLANIMITY

‘ I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest Thou to me ? ’

How didst thou start, Thou Holy Baptist, bid
 To pour repentance on the Sinless Brow !
 Then all thy meekness, from thy hearers hid,
 Beneath the Ascetic’s port, and Preacher’s fire,
 Flow’d forth, and with a pang thou didst desire
 He might be chief, not thou.

And so on us at whiles it falls, to claim
 Powers that we dread, or dare some forward part ;
 Nor must we shrink as cravens from the blame
 Of pride, in common eyes, or purpose deep ; 10
 But with pure thoughts look up to God, and keep
 Our secret in our heart.

At Sea.

June 22, 1833.

XCIV

JAMES AND JOHN

Two brothers freely cast their lot
 With David's royal Son ;
 The cost of conquest counting not,
 They deem the battle won.

Brothers in heart, they hope to gain
 An undivided joy ;
 That man may one with man remain,
 As boy was one with boy.

Christ heard ; and will'd that James should fall,
 First prey of Satan's rage ; 10
 John linger out his fellows all,
 And die in bloodless age.

Now they join hands once more above,
 Before the Conqueror's throne ;
 Thus God grants prayer, but in His love
 Makes times and ways His own.

At Sea.

June 23, 1833.

XCV

HORA NOVISSIMA

WHENE'ER goes forth Thy dread command,
 And my last hour is nigh,
 Lord, grant me in a Christian land,
 As I was born, to die.

I pray not, Lord, that friends may be,
 Or kindred, standing by,—
 Choice blessing! which I leave to Thee
 To grant me or deny.

But let my failing limbs beneath
 My Mother's smile recline ; 10
 And prayers sustain my labouring breath
 From out her sacred shrine.

And let the Cross beside my bed
 In its due emblems rest ;
 And let the absolving words be said,
 To ease a laden breast.

Thou, Lord, where'er we lie, canst aid ;
 But He, who taught His own
 To live as one, will not upbraid
 The dread to die alone. 20

XCVI

PROGRESS OF UNBELIEF

Now is the Autumn of the Tree of Life ;

Its leaves are shed upon the unthankful earth,
Which lets them whirl, a prey to the winds' strife,
Heartless to store them for the months of dearth.

Men close the door, and dress the cheerful hearth,
Self-trusting still ; and in his comely gear
Of precept and of rite, a household Baal rear.

But I will out amid the sleet, and view

Each shrivelling stalk and silent-falling leaf.
Truth after truth, of choicest scent and hue, 10
Fades, and in fading stirs the Angels' grief,
Unanswer'd here ; for she, once pattern chief
Of faith, my Country, now gross-hearted grown,
Waits but to burn the stem before her idol's throne.

At Sea.

June 23, 1833.

XCVII

CONSOLATION

‘It is I; be not afraid.’

WHEN I sink down in gloom or fear,
 Hope blighted or delay’d,
 Thy whisper, Lord, my heart shall cheer,
 ‘’Tis I; be not afraid!’

Or, startled at some sudden blow,
 If fretful thoughts I feel,
 ‘Fear not, it is but I!’ shall flow,
 As balm my wound to heal.

Nor will I quit Thy way, though foes
 Some onward pass defend; 10
 From each rough voice the watchword goes,
 ‘Be not afraid! . . . a friend!’

And O! when judgement’s trumpet clear
 Awakes me from the grave,
 Still in its echo may I hear,
 ‘’Tis Christ; He comes to save.’

At Sea.

June 23, 1833.

XCVIII

UZZAH AND OBED-EDOM

THE ark of God has hidden strength ;
 Who reverence or profane,
 They, or their seed, shall find at length
 The penalty or gain.

While as a sojourner it sought
 Of old its destined place,
 A blessing on the home it brought
 Of one who did it grace.

But there was one, outstripping all
 The holy-vestured band,
 Who laid on it, to save its fall,
 A rude corrective hand.

10

Read, who the Church would cleanse, and mark
 How stern the warning runs ;
 There are two ways to aid her ark—
 As patrons, and as sons.

*At Sea.**June 24, 1833.*

XCIX

THE GIFT OF TONGUES

ONCE cast with men of language strango
 And foreign-moulded creed,
 I mark'd their random converse change,
 And sacred themes succeed.

O how I coveted the gift
 To thread their mingled throng
 Of sounds, then high my witness lift !
 But weakness chain'd my tongue.

Lord ! has our dearth of faith and prayer
 Lost us this power once given, 10
 Or is it sent at seasons rare
 And then flits back to heaven ?

At Sea.

June 24, 1833.

C

THE POWER OF PRAYER

THERE is not on the earth a soul so base
 But may obtain a place
 In covenanted grace ;
 So that his feeble prayer of faith obtains
 Some loosening of his chains,
 And earnest of the great release, which rise
 From gift to gift, and reach at length the eternal prize.

All may save self ;—but minds that heavenward
 tower

 Aim at a wider power,
 Gifts on the world to shower.— 10
 And this is not at once ;—by fastings gain'd,
 And trials well sustain'd,
 By pureness, righteous deeds, and toils of love,
 Abidance in the Truth, and zeal for God above.

At Sea.

June 24, 1833.

SEMITA JUSTORUM

WHEN I look back upon my former race,
 Seasons I see, at which the Inward Ray
 More brightly burn'd, or guided some new way ;
 Truth, in its wealthier scene and nobler space
 Given for my eye to range, and feet to trace.
 And next I mark, 'twas trial did convey,
 Or grief, or pain, or strange eventful day,
 To my tormented soul such larger grace.
 So now, whene'er, in journeying on, I feel
 The shadow of the Providential Hand, 10
 Deep breathless stirrings shoot*across my breast,
 Searching to know what He will now reveal,
 What sin uncloak, what stricter rule command,
 And girding me to work His full behest.

At Sea.

June 25, 1833.

CII

THE ELEMENTS

(A Tragic Chorus)

MAN is permitted much
 To scan and learn
 In Nature's frame ;
 Till he well-nigh can tame
 Brute mischiefs, and can touch
 Invisible things, and turn
 All warring ills to purposes of good.
 Thus, as a god below,
 He can control,
 And harmonize, what seems amiss to flow 10
 As sever'd from the whole
 And dimly understood.

But o'er the elements
 One Hand alone
 One Hand has sway.
 What influence day by day
 In straiter belt prevents
 The impious Ocean, thrown
 Alternate o'er the ever-sounding shore ?
 Or who has eye to trace 20
 How the Plague came ?
 Forerun the doublings of the Tempest's race ?
 Or the Air's weight and flame
 On a set scale explore ?

Thus God has will'd
That man, when fully skill'd,
Still gropes in twilight dim ;
Encompass'd all his hours
By fearfullest powers
Inflexible to him. 30
That so he may discern
His feebleness,
And e'en for earth's success
To Him in wisdom turn,
Who holds for us the keys of either home,
Earth and the world to come.

At Sea.

June 25, 1833.

CIII

APOSTASY

FRANCE ! I will think of thee as what thou wast,
 When Poictiers show'd her zeal for the true creed ;
 Or in that age, when Holy Truth, though cast
 On a rank soil, yet was a thriving seed,
 Thy schools within, from neighbouring countries
 chased ;
 E'en of thy pagan day I bear to read,
 Thy Martyrs sanctified the guilty host,
 The sons of blessed John, rear'd on a western coast.

I dare not think of thee as what thou art,
 Lest thoughts too deep for man should trouble me.
 It is not safe to place the mind and heart 11
 On brink of evil, or its flames to see,
 Lest they should dizzy, or some taint impart,
 Or to our sin a fascination be.
 And so in silence I will now proclaim
 Hate of thy present self, and scarce will sound thy
 name.¹

Off the French coast.

June 26, 1833.

¹ This is not the language of one who knew anything rightly of that great Catholic and highly gifted people.—J. H. N.

CIV

JUDAISM

(A Tragic Chorus)

O PITEOUS race !
 Fearful to look upon,
 Once standing in high place,
 Heaven's eldest son.
 O aged blind
 Unvenerable ! as thou flittest by,
 I liken thee to him in pagan song,
 In thy gaunt majesty,
 The vagrant King, of haughty-purposed mind
 Whom prayer nor plague could bend¹ ; 10
 Wrong'd, at the cost of him who did the wrong,
 Accursed himself, but in his cursing strong,
 And honour'd in his end.

O Abraham ! sire,
 Shamed in thy progeny ;
 Who to thy faith aspire,
 Thy Hope deny.
 Well wast thou given
 From out the heathen an adopted heir,
 Raised strangely from the dead, when sin had slain
 Thy former-cherish'd care. 21
 O holy men, ye first-wrought gems of heaven !

¹ Vide the *Oedipus Coloneus* of Sophocles.

Polluted in your kin,
Come to our fonts, your lustre to regain.
O Holiest Lord ! . . . but Thou canst take no stain
Of blood, or taint of sin.

Twice in their day
Proffer of precious cost
Was made, Heaven's hand to stay
Ere all was lost. 30
The first prevail'd ;
Moses was outcast from the promised home,
For his own sin, yet taken at his prayer
To change his people's doom.
Close on their eve, one other ask'd and fail'd ;
When fervent Paul was fain
The accursèd tree, as Christ had borne, to bear,
No hopeful answer came,—a Price more rare
Already shed in vain. 39

Off Marseilles Harbour.

June 27 1833.

CV

THE PRIESTLY OFFICE

FROM ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN

IN service o'er the Mystic Feast I stand ;
I cleanse Thy victim-flock, and bring them near
In holiest wise, and by a bloodless rite.
O Fire of Love ! O gushing Fount of Light !
(As best I know, who need Thy cleansing Hand)
Dread office this, bemired souls to clear
Of their defilement, and again make bright.

Oxford.

1834.

CVI

MORNING

FROM ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN

I RISE and raise my clasped hands to Thee !
Henceforth, the darkness hath no part in me,
 Thy sacrifice this day ;
Abiding firm, and with a freeman's might
Stemming the waves of passion in the fight ;—
 Ah, should I from Thee stray,
My hoary head, Thy table where I bow,
Will be my shame, which are mine honour now.
Thus I set out ;—Lord ! lead me on my way !

Oxford.

1834.

CVII

EVENING

FROM ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN

O HOLIEST Truth ! how have I lied to Thee !
I vow'd this day Thy sacrifice to be ;

But I am dim ere night.

Surely I made my prayer, and I did deem
That I could keep in me Thy morning beam,
Immaculate and bright.

But my foot slipp'd ; and, as I lay, he came,
My gloomy foe, and robb'd me of heaven's flame.
Help Thou my darkness, Lord, till I am light.

Oxford.

1834.

CVIII

A HERMITAGE

FROM ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN

SOME one whisper'd yesterday,
 Of the rich and fashionable,
 Gregory in his own small way
 Easy was and comfortable.

Had he not of wealth his fill
 Whom a garden gay did bless,
 And a gently trickling rill,
 And the sweets of idleness ?

I made answer :—‘ Is it ease
 Fasts to keep and tears to shed, 10
 Vigil hours and wounded knees,
 Call you these a pleasant bed ? ’

Thus a veritable monk
 Does to death his fleshly frame ;
 Be there who in sloth are sunk,
 They have forfeited the name.

CIX

THE MARRIED AND THE SINGLE

A FRAGMENT FROM ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN

As, when the hand some mimic form would paint,
 It marks its purpose first in shadows faint,
 And next, its store of varied hues applies,
 Till outlines fade, and the full limbs arise ;
 So in the earlier school of sacred lore
 The Virgin-life no claim of honour bore,
 While in Religion's youth the Law held sway,
 And traced in symbols dim that better way.
 But, when the Christ came by a Virgin-birth,—
 His radiant passage from high heaven to earth,—
 And, spurning father for His mortal state, 11
 Did Eve and all her daughters consecrate,
 Solved fleshly laws, and in the letter's place
 Gave us the Spirit and the Word of Grace,
 Then shone the glorious Celibate at length,
 Robed in the dazzling lightnings of its strength,
 Surpassing gifts of earth and marriage vow,
 As soul the body, heaven this world below,
 The eternal peace of saints life's troubled span,
 And the high throne of God the haunts of man.
 So now there circles round the King of Light 21
 A heaven on earth, a blameless court and bright,
 Aiming as emblems of their God to shine,
 Christ in their heart, and on their brow His Sign,—
 Soft funeral lights in the world's twilight dim,
 Loving their God, and ever loved by Him.

Ye countless multitudes, content to bow
 To the soft thralldom of the marriage vow !
 I mark your haughty step, your froward gaze,
 Gems deck your hair, and silk your limbs arrays ;
 Come, tell the gain which wedlock has conferr'd
 On man ; and then the single shall be heard. 32

The married many thus might plead, I wean ;
 Right glib their tongue, full confident their mien :—
 ‘ Hear all who live ! to whom the nuptial rite
 Has brought the privilege of life and light.
 We, who are wedded, but the law obey
 Stamp’d at creation on our blood and clay,
 What time the Demiurge our line began,
 Oped Adam’s side, and out of man drew man. 40
 Thenceforth let children of a mortal sod
 Honour the law of earth, the primal law of God.

‘ List, you shall hear the gifts of price that lie
 Gather’d and bound within the marriage-tie.
 What taught the arts of life, the truths that sleep
 In earth, or highest heaven, or vasty deep ?
 What fill’d the mart, and urged the vessel brave
 To link in one fair countries o’er the wave ?
 What raised the town ? what gave the type and germ
 Of social union, and of sceptre firm ? 50
 What the first husbandman, the glebe to plough,
 And rear the garden, but the marriage vow ?

‘ Nay, list again ! Who seek its kindly chain,
 A second self, a double presence gain ;

Hands, eyes, and ears, to act or suffer here,
 Till e'en the weak inspire both love and fear,—
 A comrade's sigh, to soothe when cares annoy,
 A comrade's smile, to elevate his joy.

'Nor say it weds us to a carnal life,
 When want is urgent, fears and vows are rife. 60
 Light heart is his, who has no yoke at home,
 Scant prayer for blessings, as the seasons come;
 But wife, and offspring, goods which go or stay,
 Teach us our need, and make us trust and pray.
 Take love away, and life would be defaced,
 A ghastly vision on a howling waste,
 Stern, heartless, reft of the sweet spells which swage
 The throes of passion, and which gladden age.
 No child's sweet pranks, once more to make us
 young;
 No ties of place about our heart-strings flung; 70
 No public haunts to cheer; no festive tide
 When harmless mirth and smiling wit preside;
 A life which scorns the gifts by Heaven assign'd,
 Nor knows the sympathy of human kind.

'Prophets and teachers, priests and victor kings,
 Deck'd with each grace which heaven-taught nature
 brings,
 These were no giant offspring of the earth,
 But to the marriage-promise owed their birth:—
 Moses and Samuel, David, David's Son,
 The blessed Tishbite, the more blessed John, 80
 The sacred Twelve in apostolic choir,

174 THE MARRIED AND THE SINGLE

Strong-hearted Paul, instinct with seraph fire,
 And others, now or erst, who to high heaven aspire.
 Bethink ye ; should the single state be best,
 Yet who the single, but my offspring blest ?
 My sons, be still, nor with your parents strive :
 They coupled in their day, and so ye live.'

Thus marriage pleads. Now let her rival speak—
 Dim is her downcast eye, and pale her cheek ;
 Untrimm'd her gear ; no sandals on her feet ; 90
 A sparest form for austere tenant meet.
 She drops her veil her modest face around,
 And her lips open, but we hear no sound.
 I will address her :—' Hail, O child of Heaven,
 Glorious within ! to whom a post is given
 Hard by the Throne where angels bow and fear,
 E'en while thou hast a name and mission here,
 O deign thy voice, unveil thy brow, and see
 Thy ready guard and minister in me. 99
 Oft hast thou come heaven-wafted to my breast,
 Bright Spirit ! so come again, and give me rest.'

. . . ' Ah, who has hither drawn my backward feet,
 Changing for worldly strife my lone retreat ?
 Where, in the silent chant of holy deeds,
 I praise my God, and tend the sick soul's needs ;
 By toils of day, and vigils of the night,
 By gushing tears, and blessed lustral rite.
 I have no sway amid the crowd, no art
 In speech, no plea in council or in mart.
 Nor human law, nor judges throned on high, 110
 Smile on my face, and to my words reply.

Let others seek earth's honours ; be it mine
 One law to cherish, and to track one line,
 Straight on towards heaven to press with single bent,
 To know and love my God, and then to die content.'

.
Oxford. 1834.

CX

INTERCESSION OF THE SAINTS

WHILE Moses on the Mountain lay,
 Night after night, and day by day,
 Till forty suns were gone,
 Unconscious, in the Presence bright,
 Of lustrous day and starry night,
 As though his soul had flitted quite
 From earth, and Eden won ;

The pageant of a kingdom vast,
 And things unutterable, pass'd
 Before the Prophet's eye ; 10
 Dread shadows of th' Eternal Throne,
 The fount of Life, and Altar-stone,
 Pavement, and them that tread thereon,
 And those who worship nigh.

But lest he should his own forget,
 Who in the vale were struggling yet,
 A sadder vision came,
 Announcing all that guilty deed
 Of idol rite, that in their need
 He for his flock might intercede, 20
 And stay Heaven's rising flame.

CXI

REFRIGERIUM ¹

THEY are at rest :

The fire has eaten out all blot and stain,
 And, convalescent, they enjoy a blest
 Refreshment after pain ;
 Thus to the End, in Eden's grotts they lie,
 And hear the fourfold river, as it hurries by.

They hear it sweep
 In distance down the dark and savage glen ;
 Safe from its rocky bed, and current deep,
 And eddying pools, till then ; 10
 They hear, and meekly muse, as fain to know
 How long untired, unspent, that giant stream shall
 flow.

And soothing sounds
 Blend with the neighbouring waters as they glide ;
 Posted along the haunted garden's bounds
 Angelic forms abide,
 Echoing, as words of watch, o'er lawn and grove,
 The verses of that hymn which Seraphs chant above.

Oxford.

1835.

¹ Altered from the first editions. Here it is meant to illustrate St. Bede's 'Quoddam quasi pratum, in quo animae nihil patiebantur, sed manebant, nondum idoneae Visioni Beatae'. Hist. v.

Lest aught defiled or dissolute
Relax our bodies or imbrute,
And fires eternal be the fruit
Of fire now lit within.

Fix in our hearts, Redeemer dear,
The ever-gushing spring
Of grace to cleanse, of life to cheer
Souls sick and sorrowing.
Thee, bounteous Father, we intreat,
And Only Son, awful and sweet,
And life-creating Paraclete,
The everlasting King.

30

CXIII

MATINS—SUNDAY

Nocte surgentes.

LET us arise, and watch by night,
And meditate always ;
And chant, as in our Maker's sight,
United hymns of praise.

So, singing with the Saints in bliss,
With them we may attain
Life everlasting after this,
And heaven for earthly pain.

Grant this, O Father, Only Son,
And Spirit, God of grace,
To whom all worship shall be done
In every time and place.

CXIV

MATINS—MONDAY

Somno refectis artubus.

SLEEP has refresh'd our limbs, we spring
 From off our bed, and rise ;
 Lord, on Thy suppliants, while they sing,
 Look with a Father's eyes.

Be Thou the first on every tongue,
 The first in every heart ;
 That all our doings all day long,
 Holiest ! from Thee may start.

Cleanse Thou the gloom, and bid the light
 Its healing beams renew ;
 The sins, which have crept in with night,
 With night shall vanish too.

10

Our bosoms, Lord, unburthen Thou,
 Let nothing there offend ;
 That those who hymn Thy praises now
 May hymn them to the end.

Grant this, O Father, Only Son,
 And Spirit, God of grace,
 To whom all worship shall be done
 In every time and place.

20

CXV

MATINS—TUESDAY

Consors Paterni luminis.

O GOD from God, and Light from Light,
 Who art Thyself the day,
 Our chants shall break the clouds of night ;
 Be with us while we pray.

Chase Thou the gloom that haunts the mind,
 The thronging shades of hell,
 The sloth and drowsiness that bind
 The senses with a spell.

Lord, to their sins indulgent be,
 Who, in this hour forlorn,
 By faith in what they do not see,
 With songs prevent the morn.

10

Grant this, O Father, etc.

CXVI

MATINS—WEDNESDAY

Rerum Creator optime.

Who madest all and dost control,
 Lord, with Thy touch divine,
 Cast out the slumbers of the soul,
 The rest that is not Thine.

Look down, Eternal Holiness,
 And wash the sins away,
 Of those, who, rising to confess,
 Outstrip the lingering day.

Our hearts and hands by night, O Lord,
 We lift them in our need ; 10
 As holy Psalmists give the word,
 And holy Paul the deed.

Each sin to Thee of years gone by,
 Each hidden stain lies bare ;
 We shrink not from Thine awful eye,
 But pray that Thou wouldst spare.

Grant this, O Father, etc.

CXVII

MATINS—THURSDAY

Nox atra rerum contegit.

ALL tender lights, all hues divine
 The night has swept away ;
 Shine on us, Lord, and we shall shine
 Bright in an inward day.

The spots of guilt, sin's wages base,
 Searcher of hearts, we own ;
 Wash us and robe us in Thy grace,
 Who didst for sins atone.

The sluggard soul, that bears their mark,
 Shrinks in its silent lair, 10
 Or gropes amid its chambers dark
 For Thee, who art not there.

Redeemer ! send Thy piercing rays,
 That we may bear to be
 Set in the light of Thy pure gaze,
 And yet rejoice in Thee.

Grant this, O Father, etc.

CXVIII

MATINS—FRIDAY

Tu Trinitatis Unitas.

MAY the dread Three in One, who sways
 All with His sovereign might,
 Accept us for this hymn of praise,
 His watchers in the night.

For in the night, when all is still,
 We spurn our bed and rise,
 To find the balm for ghostly ill,
 His bounteous hand supplies.

If e'er by night our envious foe
 With guilt our souls would stain, 10
 May the deep streams of mercy flow,
 And make us white again ;

That so with bodies braced and bright,
 And hearts awake within,
 All fresh and keen may burn our light,
 Undimm'd, unsoil'd by sin.

Shine on Thine own, Redeemer sweet !
 Thy radiance increate
 Through the long day shall keep our feet
 In their pure morning state. 20

Grant this, O Father, etc.

CXIX

MATINS—SATURDAY

Summae Parens clementiae.

FATHER of mercies infinite,
 Ruling all things that be,
 Who, shrouded in the depth and height,
 Art One, and yet art Three ;

Accept our chants, accept our tears,
 A mingled stream we pour ;
 Such stream the laden bosom cheers,
 To taste Thy sweetness more.

Purge Thou with fire the o'ercharged mind,
 Its sores and wounds profound ;
 And with the watcher's girdle bind
 The limbs which sloth has bound.

10

That they who with their chants by night
 Before Thy presence come,
 All may be fill'd with strength and light
 From their eternal home.

Grant this, O Father, etc.

CXX

LAUDS—SUNDAY

Acterne rerum conditor.

FRAMER of the earth and sky,
 Ruler of the day and night,
 With a glad variety,
 Tempering all, and making light ;

Gleams upon our dark path flinging,
 Cutting short each night begun,
 Hark ! for chanticleer is singing,
 Hark ! he chides the lingering sun.

And the morning star replies,
 And lets loose the imprison'd day ; 10
 And the godless bandit flies
 From his haunt and from his prey.

Shrill it sounds, the storm relenting
 Soothes the weary seaman's ears ;
 Once it wrought a great repenting,
 In that flood of Peter's tears.

Rouse we ; let the blithesome cry
 Of that bird our hearts awaken ;
 Chide the slumberers as they lie,
 And arrest the sin-o'ertaken. 20

Hope and health are in his strain,
To the fearful and the ailing ;
Murder sheathes his blade profane,
Faith revives when faith was failing.

Jesu, Master ! when we sin,
Turn on us Thy healing face ;
It will melt the offence within
Into penitential grace :

Beam on our bewilder'd mind,
Till its dreamy shadows flee ;
Stones cry out where Thou hast shined,
Jesu ! musical with Thee.

30

To the Father, and the Son,
And the Spirit, who in Heaven
Ever witness, Three and One,
Praise on Earth be ever given.

CXXI

LAUDS—SUNDAY

Ecce jam noctis.

PALER have grown the shades of night,
And nearer draws the day,
Checkering the sky with streaks of light,
Since we began to pray :

To pray for mercy when we sin,
For cleansing and release,
For ghostly safety, and within
For everlasting peace.

Praise to the Father, as is meet,
Praise to the Only Son,
Praise to the Holy Paraclete,
While endless ages run.

CXXII

LAUDS—MONDAY

Splendor Paternae gloriae.

OF the Father Effluence bright,
Out of Light evolving light,
Light from Light, unfailing Ray,
Day creative of the day :

Truest Sun, upon us stream
With Thy calm perpetual beam,
In the Spirit's still sunshine
Making sense and thought divine.

Seek we too the Father's face,
Father of almighty grace,
And of majesty excelling,
Who can purge our tainted dwelling ;

10

Who can aid us, who can break
Teeth of envious foes, and make
Hours of loss and pain succeed,
Guiding safe each duteous deed,

And infusing self-control,
Fragrant chastity of soul,
Faith's keen flame to soar on high,
Incorrupt simplicity.

20

Christ Himself for food be given,
Faith become the cup of Heaven,
Out of which the joy is quaff'd
Of the Spirit's sobering draught.

With that joy replenishèd,
Morn shall glow with modest red,
Noon with beaming faith be bright,
Eve be soft without twilight.

It has dawn'd ;—upon our way,
Father in Thy Word, this day,
In Thy Father Word Divine,
From Thy cloudy pillar shine.

30

To the Father, and the Son,
And the Spirit, Three and One,
As of old, and as in Heaven,
Now and here be glory given.

CXXIII

LAUDS—TUESDAY

Ales diei nuntius.

DAY's herald bird
At length is heard,
Telling its morning torch is lit,
And small and still
Christ's accents thrill,
Within the heart rekindling it.

Away, He cries,
With languid eyes,
And sickly slumbers profitless !
I am at hand,
As watchers stand,
In awe, and truth, and holiness.

10

He will appear
The hearts to cheer
Of suppliants pale and abstinent ;
Who cannot sleep
Because they weep
With holy grief and violent.

Keep us awake,
The fetters break,
Jesu ! which night has forged for us ;
Yea, melt the night
To sinless light,
Till all is bright and glorious.

20

To Father, Son,
And Spirit, One,
To the Most Holy Trinity,
All praise be given
In Earth and Heaven,
Now, as of old, and endlessly. 30

CXXIV

LAUDS—WEDNESDAY

Nox et tenebrae et nubila.

HAUNTING gloom and flitting shades,
 Ghastly shapes, away !
 Christ is rising, and pervades
 Highest Heaven with day.

He with His bright spear the night
 Dazzles and pursues ;
 Earth wakes up, and glows with light
 Of a thousand hues.

Thee, O Christ, and Thee alone,
 With a single mind,
 We with chant and plaint would own ;
 To Thy flock be kind.

10

Much it needs Thy light divine,
 Spot and stain to clean ;
 Light of Angels, on us shine
 With Thy face serene.

To the Father, and the Son,
 And the Holy Ghost,
 Here be glory, as is done
 By the angelic host.

20

CXXV

LAUDS—THURSDAY

Lux ecco surgit aurea.

SEE, the golden dawn is glowing,
While the paly shades are going,
Which have led us far and long,
In a labyrinth of wrong.

May it bring us peace serene ;
May it cleanse, as it is clean ;
Plain and clear our words be spoke,
And our thoughts without a cloak ;

So the day's account shall stand,
Guileless tongue and holy hand, 10
Steadfast eyes and unbeguiled,
'Flesh as of a little child.'

There is One who from above
Watches how the still hours move
Of our day of service done,
From the dawn to setting sun.

To the Father, and the Son,
And the Spirit, Three and One,
As of old, and as in Heaven,
Now and here be glory given. 20

CXXVI

LAUDS—FRIDAY

Aeterna coeli gloria.

GLORY of the eternal Heaven,
 Blessed Hope to mortals given,
 Of the Almighty Only Son,
 And the Virgin's Holy One ;
 Raise us, Lord, and we shall rise
 In a sober mood,
 And a zeal, which glorifies
 Thee from gratitude.

Now the day-star, keenly glancing,
 Tells us of the Sun's advancing ; 10
 While the unhealthy shades decline,
 Rise within us, Light Divine !
 Rise, and, risen, go not hence,
 Stay, and make us bright,
 Streaming through each cleansèd sense,
 On the outward night.

Then the root of faith shall spread
 In the heart new fashioned ;
 Gladsome hope shall spring above,
 And shall bear the fruit of love. 20
 To the Father, and the Son,
 And the Holy Ghost,
 Here be glory, as is done
 By the angelic host.

CXXVII

LAUDS—SATURDAY

Aurora jam spargit polum.

THE dawn is sprinkled o'er the sky,
 The day steals softly on ;
 Its darts are scatter'd far and nigh,
 And all that fraudulent is, shall fly
 Before the brightening sun ;
 Spectres of ill, that stalk at will,
 And forms of guilt that fright,
 And hideous sin, that ventures in
 Under the cloak of night.

And of our crimes the tale complete, 10
 Which bows us in Thy sight,
 Up to the latest, they shall fleet,
 Out-told by our full numbers sweet,
 And melted by the light.
 To Father, Son, and Spirit, One,
 Whom we adore and love,
 Be given all praise, now and always,
 Here as in Heaven above. 18

CXXVIII

PRIME

Jam lucis orto sidere.

(*From the Parisian Breviary*¹)

Now that the day-star glimmers bright,
 Pray, brothers, bending low,
 That He, the uncreated Light,
 May guide us as we go.

No sinful word, nor deed of wrong,
 Nor thoughts that idly rove ;
 But simple truth be on our tongue,
 And in our hearts be love.

And, while the hours in order flow,
 O Christ, securely fence
 Our gates, beleaguer'd by the foe,—
 The gate of every sense.

10

And grant that to Thine honour, Lord,
 Our daily toil may tend ;
 That we begin it at Thy word,
 And in Thy favour end.

¹ Vide the Anglo-Norman History of Sir Francis Palgrave (Vol. iii, p. 588), who did the Author the honour of asking him for a translation of this hymn, as also of the *Christe Pastorum*, *infra*.

And, lest the flesh in its excess
Should lord it o'er the soul,
Let taming abstinence repress
The rebel, and control.

20

To God the Father glory be,
And to His Only Son,
And to the Spirit, One and Three,
While endless ages run.

*Littlemore.**February 1842.*

CXXIX

TERCE

Nunc Sancte nobis Spiritus.

COME, Holy Ghost, who ever One
Reignest with Father and with Son,
It is the hour, our souls possess
With Thy full flood of holiness.

Let flesh, and heart, and lips, and mind,
Sound forth our witness to mankind ;
And love light up our mortal frame,
Till others catch the living flame.

Now to the Father, to the Son,
And to the Spirit, Three in One,
Be praise and thanks and glory given
By men on earth, by Saints in heaven.

CXXX

SEXT

Rector potens, verax Deus.

O God, who canst not change nor fail,
Guiding the hours, as they roll by,
Bright'ning with beams the morning pale,
And burning in the mid-day sky,

Quench Thou the fires of hate and strife,
The wasting fever of the heart ;
From perils guard our feeble life,
And to our souls Thy peace impart.

Grant this, O Father, Only Son,
And Holy Spirit, God of grace,
To whom all glory, Three in One,
Be given in every time and place.

CXXXI

NONE

Rorum Deus tenax vigor.

O GOD, unchangeable and true,
 Of all the Life and Power,
 Dispensing light in silence through
 Every successive hour,

Lord, brighten our declining day,
 That it may never wane,
 Till death, when all things round decay,
 Brings back the morn again.

This grace on Thy redeem'd confer,
 Father, Co-equal Son,
 And Holy Ghost, the Comforter,
 Eternal Three in One.

CXXXII

VESPERS—SUNDAY

Lucis Creator optime.

FATHER of Lights, by whom each day
 Is kindled out of night,
 Who, when the heavens were made, didst lay
 Their rudiments in light ;
 Thou, who didst bind and blend in one
 The glistening morn and evening pale,
 Hear Thou our plaint, when light is gone,
 And lawlessness and strife prevail.

Hear, lest the whelming weight of crime
 Wreck us with life in view ; 10
 Lest thoughts and schemes of sense and time
 Earn us a sinner's due.
 So may we knock at Heaven's door,
 And strive the immortal prize to win,
 Continually and evermore
 Guarded without and pure within.

Grant this, O Father, Only Son,
 And Spirit, God of grace,
 To whom all worship shall be done
 In every time and place. 20

CXXXIII

VESPERS—MONDAY

Immense coeli conditor.

LORD of unbounded space,
 Who, lest the sky and main
 Should mix, and heaven should lose its place,
 Didst the rude waters chain ;

Parting the moist and rare,
 That rills on earth might flow
 To soothe the angry flame, whene'er
 It ravens from below ;

Pour on us of Thy grace
 The everlasting spring ;
 Lest our frail steps renew the trace
 Of the ancient wandering.

10

May faith in lustre grow,
 And rear her star in heaven,
 Paling all sparks of earth below,
 Unquench'd by damps of even.

Grant it, O Father, Son,
 And Holy Spirit of grace,
 To whom be glory, Three in One,
 In every time and place.

20

CXXXIV

VESPERS—TUESDAY

Telluris almo conditor.

ALL-BOUNTIFUL Creator, who,

When Thou didst mould the world, didst drain
The waters from the mass, that so
Earth might immovable remain ;

That its dull clods it might transmute
To golden flowers in vale or wood,
To juice of thirst-allaying fruit,
And grateful herbage spread for food ;

Wash Thou our smarting wounds and hot,
In the cool freshness of Thy grace ; 10
Till tears start forth the past to blot,
And cleanse and calm Thy holy place ;

Till we obey Thy full behest,
Shun the world's tainted touch and breath,
Joy in what highest is and best,
And gain a spell to baffle death.

Grant it, O Father, Only Son,
And Holy Spirit, God of grace,
To whom all glory, Three in One,
Be given in every time and place. 20

CXXXV

VESPERS—WEDNESDAY

Coeli Deus sanctissimo.

O LORD, who, thron'd in the holy height,
Through plains of ether didst diffuse
The dazzling beams of light,
In soft transparent hues ;

Who didst, on the fourth day, in heaven
Light the fierce cresset of the sun,
And the meek moon at even,
And stars that wildly run ;

That they might mark and arbitrate
'Twixt alternating night and day, 10
And tend the train sedate
Of months upon their way ;

Clear, Lord, the brooding night within,
And clean these hearts for Thy abode,
Unlock the spell of sin,
Crumble its giant load.

Grant it, O Father, Only Son,
And Holy Spirit, God of grace,
To whom all praise be done
In every time and place. 20

CXXXVI

VESPERS—THURSDAY

Magnæ Deus potentiae.

O God, who hast given
 the sea and the sky,
 To fish and to bird
 for a dwelling to keep,
 Both sons of the waters,
 one low and one high,
 Ambitious of heaven,
 yet sunk in the deep ;

Save, Lord, Thy servants,
 whom Thou hast new made 10
 In a laver of blood,
 lest they trespass and die ;
 Lest pride should elate,
 or sin should degrade,
 And they stumble on earth,
 or be dizzied on high.

To the Father and Son
 And the Spirit be done,
 Now and always,
 Glory and praise.

CXXXVII

VESPERS—FRIDAY

Hominis superne Conditor.

WHOM all obey,—
 Maker of man ! who from Thy height
 Badest the dull earth bring to light
 All creeping things, and the fierce might
 Of beasts of prey ;—

And the huge make
 Of wild or gentler animal,
 Springing from nothing at Thy call,
 To serve in their due time, and all
 For sinners' sake ;

10

Shield us from ill !
 Come it by passion's sudden stress,
 Lurk in our mind's habitual dress,
 Or through our actions seek to press
 Upon our will.

Vouchsafe the prize
 Of sacred joy's perpetual mood,
 And service-seeking gratitude,
 And love to quell each strife or feud,
 If it arise.

20

Grant it, O Lord !
To whom, the Father, Only Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
In heaven and earth all praise be done,
With one accord.

CXXXVIII

VESPERS—SATURDAY

Jam sol recedit igneus.

THE red sun is gone,
 Thou Light of the heart,
 Blessed Three, Holy One,
 To Thy servants a sun
 Everlasting impart.

There were Lauds in the morn,
 Here are Vespers at even ;
 O may we adorn
 Thy Temple new born
 With our voices in Heaven.

10

To the Father be praise,
 And praise to the Son
 And the Spirit always,
 While the infinite days
 Of eternity run.

CXXXIX

COMPLINE

Te lucis ante terminum.

Now that the day-light dies away,
 By all Thy grace and love,
 Thee, Maker of the world, we pray
 To watch our bed above.

Let dreams depart and phantoms fly,
 The offspring of the night,
 Keep us, like shrines, beneath Thine eye,
 Pure in our foe's despite.

This grace on Thy redeem'd confer,
 Father, Co-equal Son,
 And Holy Ghost, the Comforter,
 Eternal Three in One.

10

CXL

ADVENT—VESPERS

Creator alme siderum.

CREATOR of the starry pole,
 Saviour of all who live,
 And light of every faithful soul,
 Jesu, these prayers receive.

Who, sooner than our foe malign
 Should triumph, from above
 Didst come, to be the medicine
 Of a sick world, in love ;

And the deep wounds to cleanse and cure
 Of a whole race, didst go, 10
 Pure Victim, from a Virgin pure,
 The bitter Cross unto.

Who hast a Name, and hast a Power,
 The height and depth to sway,
 And Angels bow, and devils cower,
 In transport or dismay ;

Thou too shalt be our Judge at length ;
 Lord, in Thy grace bestow
 Thy weapons of celestial strength,
 And snatch us from the foe. 20

Honour and glory, power and praise,
To Father, and to Son,
And Holy Ghost, be paid always,
The Eternal Three in One.

CXLI

ADVENT—MATINS

Verbum supernum prodiens.

SUPERNAL Word, proceeding from
 The Eternal Father's breast,
 And in the end of ages come,
 To aid a world distrest ;

Enlighten, Lord, and set on fire
 Our spirits with Thy love,
 That, dead to earth, they may aspire
 And live to joys above.

That, when the judgement-seat on high
 Shall fix the sinner's doom, 10
 And to the just a glad voice cry,
 Come to your destined home ;

Safe from the black and yawning lake
 Of restless, endless pain,
 We may the face of God partake,
 The bliss of heaven attain.

To God the Father, God the Son,
 And Holy Ghost, to Thee,
 As heretofore, when time is done,
 Unending glory be. 20

CXLII

ADVENT—LAUDS

En clara vox redarguit.

HARK, a joyful voice is thrilling,
 And each dim and winding way
 Of the ancient Temple filling ;
 Dreams, depart ! for it is day.

Christ is coming !—from thy bed,
 Earth-bound soul, awake and spring,—
 With the sun new-risen to shed
 Health on human suffering.

Lo ! to grant a pardon free,
 Comes a willing Lamb from Heaven ; 10
 Sad and tearful, hasten we,
 One and all, to be forgiven.

Once again He comes in light,
 Girding earth with fear and woe ;
 Lord ! be Thou our loving Might,
 From our guilt and ghostly foe.

To the Father, and the Son,
 And the Spirit, who in Heaven
 Ever witness, Three and One,
 Praise on earth be ever given. 20

CXLIII

THE TRANSFIGURATION—MATINS

Quicumque Christum quaeritis.

O YE who seek the Lord,
 Lift up your eyes on high,
 For there He doth the Sign accord
 Of His bright majesty.

We see a dazzling sight
 That shall outlive all time,
 Older than depth or starry height,
 Limitless and sublime.

'Tis He for Israel's fold
 And heathen tribes decreed,
 The King to Abraham pledged of old
 And his unfailing seed.

10

Prophets foretold His birth,
 And witness'd when He came,
 The Father speaks to all the earth
 To hear, and own His name.

To Jesus, who displays
 To babes His beaming face,
 Be, with the Father, endless praise,
 And with the Spirit of grace. *Amen.*

20

CXLIV

THE TRANSFIGURATION—LAUDS

Lux alma Jesu.

LIGHT of the anxious heart,
 Jesu, Thou dost appear,
 To bid the gloom of guilt depart,
 And shed Thy sweetness here.

Joyous is he, with whom,
 God's Word, Thou dost abide ;
 Sweet Light of our eternal home,
 To fleshly sense denied.

Brightness of God above !
 Unfathomable grace !
 Thy Presence be a fount of love
 Within Thy chosen place.

10

To Thee, whom children see,
 The Father ever blest,
 The Holy Spirit, One and Three,
 Be endless praise address. *Amen.*

CXLV

FOR A MARTYR

Deus tuorum militum.

O God, of Thy soldiers
 the Portion and Crown,
 Spare Thy people, who hymn
 the praise of the Blest ;
 Earth's bitter joys,
 its lures and its frown,
 He scann'd them and scorn'd,
 and so is at rest.

Thy Martyr he ran
 all valiantly o'er 10
 A highway of blood
 for the prize Thou hast given.
 We kneel at Thy feet,
 and meekly implore,
 That our pardon may wait
 on his triumph in heaven.

Honour and praise
 To the Father and Son
 And the Spirit be done
 Now and always. *Amen.* 20

CXLVI

FOR A CONFESSOR BISHOP

Christe Pastorum.¹

O THOU, of shepherds Prince and Head,
 Now on a Bishop's festal-day
 Thy flock to many a shrine have sped
 Their vows to pay.

He to the high and dreadful throne
 Urged by no false inspirings, prest,
 Nor on hot daring of his own,
 But Thy behest.

And so, that soldier good and tried,
 From the full horn of heavenly grace,
 Thy Spirit did anoint, to guide
 Thy ransom'd race.

And he becomes a father true,
 Spending and spent, when troubles fall,
 A pattern and a servant too,
 All things to all.

His pleading sets the sinner free,
 He soothes the sick, he lifts the low,
 Powerful in word, deep teacher, he,
 To quell the foe.

¹ From the Parisian Breviary.

Grant us, O Christ, his prayers above,
And grace below to sing Thy praise,
The Father's power, the Spirit's love,
Now and always.

Littlemore.

February 7, 1842.

CXLVII

ETHELWALD

(From St. Bede's Metrical History of St. Cuthbert)

BETWEEN two comrades dear,
 Zealous and true as they,
 Thou, prudent Ethelwald, didst bear
 In that high home the sway.

A man, who ne'er, 'tis said,
 Would of his graces tell,
 Or with what arms he triumphèd
 Over the Dragon fell.

So down to us hath come
 A memorable word,
 Which in unguarded season from
 His blessed lips was heard.

10

It chanced, that, as the Saint
 Drank in with faithful ear
 Of Angel tones the whispers faint,
 Thus spoke a brother dear:

'O why so many a pause,
 Thwarting thy words' full stream,
 Till her dark line Oblivion draws
 Across the broken theme?'

20

He answered : 'Till thou seal
To sounds of earth thine ear,
Sweet friend, be sure thou ne'er shalt feel
Angelic voices near.'

But then the hermit blest
A sudden change came o'er ;
He shudders, sobs, and smites his breast,
Is mute, then speaks once more :

' O by the Name Most High,
What I have now let fall,
Hush, till I lay me down to die,
And go the way of all ! '

30

Thus did a Saint in fear
His gifts celestial hide ;
Thus did an Angel standing near
Proclaim them far and wide.

CXLVIII

CANDLEMAS

(A Song)

THE Angel-lights of Christmas morn,
 Which shot across the sky,
 Away they pass at Candlemas,
 They sparkle and they die.

Comfort of earth is brief at best,
 Although it be divine ;
 Like funeral lights for Christmas gone,
 Old Simeon's tapers shine.

And then for eight long weeks and more,
 We wait in twilight grey, 10
 Till the high candle sheds a beam
 On Holy Saturday.

We wait along the penance-tide
 Of solemn fast and prayer ;
 While song is hush'd, and lights grow dim
 In the sin-laden air.

And while the sword in Mary's soul
 Is driven home, we hide
 In our own hearts, and count the wounds
 Of passion and of pride. 20

And still, though Candlemas be spent
And Alleluias o'er,
Mary is music in our need,
And Jesus light in store.

The Oratory.

1849.

CXLIX

THE PILGRIM QUEEN

(A Song)

THERE sat a Lady
 all on the ground,
 Rays of the morning
 circled her round,
 Save thee, and hail to thee,
 Gracious and Fair,
 In the chill twilight
 what wouldst thou there ?

‘ Here I sit desolate,’
 sweetly said she, 10
 ‘ Though I’m a queen,
 and my name is Marie :
 Robbers have rifled
 my garden and store,
 Foes they have stolen
 my heir from my bower.

‘ They said they could keep Him
 far better than I,
 In a palace all His,
 planted deep and raised high. 20
 ’Twas a palace of ice,
 hard and cold as were they,
 And when summer came,
 it all melted away.

‘ Next would they barter Him,
Him the Supreme,
For the spice of the desert,
and gold of the stream ;
And me they bid wander
in weeds and alone,
In this green merry land
which once was my own.’

3'

I look'd on that Lady,
and out from her eyes
Came the deep glowing blue
of Italy's skies ;
And she raised up her head
and she smiled, as a Queen
On the day of her crowning,
so bland and serene.

4

‘ A moment,’ she said,
‘ and the dead shall revive ;
The giants are failing,
the Saints are alive ;
I am coming to rescue
my home and my reign,
And Peter and Philip
are close in my train.’

CL

THE MONTH OF MARY

(A Song)

GREEN are the leaves, and sweet the flowers,
 And rich the hucs of May ;
 We see them in the gardens round,
 And market-paniers gay :
 And e'en among our streets, and lanes,
 And alleys, we descry,
 By fitful gleams, the fair sunshine,
 The blue transparent sky.

Chorus.

O Mother maid, be thou our aid,
 Now in the opening year ;
 Lest sights of earth to sin give birth,
 And bring the tempter near.

10

Green is the grass, but wait awhile,
 'Twill grow, and then will wither ;
 The flowrets, brightly as they smile,
 Shall perish altogether :
 The merry sun, you sure would say,
 It ne'er could set in gloom ;
 But earth's best joys have all an end,
 And sin, a heavy doom.

20

Chorus.

But Mother maid, thou dost not fade ;
With stars above thy brow,
And the pale moon beneath thy feet,
For ever throned art thou.

The green green grass, the glittering grove,
The heaven's majestic dome,
They image forth a tenderer bower,
A more refulgent home ;
They tell us of that Paradise
Of everlasting rest, 30
And that high Tree, all flowers and fruit,
The sweetest, yet the best.

Chorus.

O Mary, pure and beautiful,
Thou art the Queen of May ;
Our garlands wear about thy hair,
And they will ne'er decay.

CLL

THE QUEEN OF THE SEASONS

(A Song for an inclement May)

ALL is divine
 which the Highest has made,
 Through the days that He wrought,
 till the day when He stay'd;
 Above and below,
 within and around,
 From the centre of space,
 to its uttermost bound.

In beauty surpassing
 the Universe smiled, 10
 On the morn of its birth,
 like an innocent child,
 Or like the rich bloom
 of some gorgeous flower;
 And the Father rejoiced
 in the work of His power.

Yet worlds brighter still,
 and a brighter than those,
 And a brighter again,
 He had made, had He chose; 20
 And you never could name
 that conceivable best,
 To exhaust the resources
 the Maker possess'd.

230 THE QUEEN OF THE SEASONS

But I know of one work
 of His Infinite Hand,
Which special and singular
 ever must stand ;
So perfect, so pure,
 and of gifts such a store, 30
That even Omnipotence
 ne'er shall do more.

The freshness of May,
 and the sweetness of June,
And the fire of July
 in its passionate noon,
Munificent August,
 September serene,
Are together no match
 for my glorious Queen. 40

O Mary, all months
 and all days are thine own,
In thee lasts their joyousness,
 when they are gone ;
And we give to thee May,
 not because it is best,
But because it comes first,
 and is pledge of the rest.

VALENTINE TO A LITTLE GIRL

LITTLE maiden, dost thou pine
 For a faithful Valentine ?
 Art thou scanning timidly
 Every face that meets thine eye ?
 Art thou fancying there may be
 Fairer face than thou dost see ?
 Little maiden, scholar mine,
 Wouldst thou have a Valentine ?

Go and ask, my little child,
 Ask the Mother undefiled : 10
 Ask, for she will draw thee near,
 And will whisper in thine ear :—
 ‘ Valentine ! the name is good ;
 For it comes of lineage high,
 And a famous family :
 And it tells of gentle blood,
 Noble blood,—and nobler still,
 For its owner freely pour’d
 Every drop there was to spill
 In the quarrel of his Lord. 20
 Valentine ! I know the name.
 Many martyrs bear the same ;
 And they stand in glittering ring
 Round their warrior God and King,—
 Who before and for them bled,—
 With their robes of ruby red,
 And their swords of cherub flame.’

Yes ! there is a plenty there,
Knights without reproach or fear,—
Such St. Denys, such St. George, 30
 Martin, Maurice, Theodore,
 And a hundred thousand more ;
 Guerdon gain'd and warfare o'er,
By that sea without a surge,
And beneath the eternal sky,
 And the beatific Sun,
 In Jerusalem above,
 Valentine is every one ;
Choose from out that company
 Whom to serve, and whom to love. 40

CLIII

ST. PHILIP NERI IN HIS MISSION

(A Song)

IN the far North our lot is cast,
 Where faithful hearts are few ;
 Still are we Philip's children dear,
 And Peter's soldiers true.

Founder and Sire ! to mighty Rome,
 Beneath St. Peter's shade,
 Early thy vow of loyal love
 And ministry was paid.

The solemn porch, and portal high,
 Of Peter was thy home ;
 The world's Apostle he, and thou
 Apostle of his Rome.

10

And first in the old catacombs,
 In galleries long and deep,
 Where martyr Popes had ruled the flock,
 And slept their glorious sleep,~

There didst thou pass the nights in prayer,
 Until at length there came,
 Down on thy breast, new lit for thee,
 The Pentecostal flame ;—

20

Then, in that heart-consuming love,
 Didst walk the city wide,
 And lure the noble and the young
 From Babel's pomp and pride ;

And, gathering them within thy cell,
 Unveil the lustre bright,
 And beauty of thy inner soul,
 And gain them by the sight.

And thus to Rome, for Peter's faith
 Far known, thou didst impart 30
 Thy lessons of the hidden life,
 And discipline of heart.

And as the Apostle, on the hill
 Facing the Imperial Town,
 First gazed upon his fair domain,
 Then on the cross lay down,

So thou, from out the streets of Rome
 Didst turn thy failing eye
 Unto that mount of martyrdom,¹
 Take leave of it, and die. 40

The Oratory.

1850.

¹ On the day of his death, Philip, 'at the beginning of his Mass, remained for some time looking fixedly at the hill of St. Onofrio, which was visible from the chapel, just as if he saw some great vision. On coming to the Gloria in Excelsis, he began to sing, which was a very unusual thing for him, and he sang the whole of it with the greatest joy and devotion,' &c.—*Bacci's Life*.

CLIV

ST. PHILIP IN HIMSELF

(A Song)

THE holy Monks, conceal'd from men,
 In midnight choir, or studious cell,
 In sultry field, or wintry glen,
 The holy Monks, I love them well.

The Friars too, the zealous band
 By Dominic or Francis led,
 They gather, and they take their stand
 Where foes are fierce, or friends have fled.

And then the unwearied Company,
 Which bears the Name of sacred might, 10
 The Knights of Jesus, they defy
 The fiend,—full eager for the fight.

Yet there is one I more affect
 Than Jesuit, Hermit, Monk, or Friar,
 'Tis an old man of sweet aspect,
 I love him more, I more admire.

I know him by his head of snow,
 His ready smile, his keen full eye,
 His words which kindle as they flow,
 Save he be rapt in ecstasy. 20

He lifts his hands, there issues forth
A fragrance virginal and rare,
And now he ventures to our North,
Where hearts are frozen as the air.

He comes, by grace of his address,
By the sweet music of his face,
And his low tones of tenderness,
To melt a noble, stubborn race.

O sainted Philip, Father dear,
Look on thy little ones, that we
Thy loveliness may copy here,
And in the eternal Kingdom see.

30

CLV

ST. PHILIP IN HIS GOD

PHILIP, on thee the glowing ray
 Of heaven came down upon thy prayer,
 To melt thy heart, and burn away
 All that of earthly dross was there.

Thy soul became as purest glass,
 Through which the Brightness Increate
 In undimm'd majesty might pass,
 Transparent and illuminate.

And so, on Philip when we gaze,
 We see the image of his Lord ;
 The Saint dissolves amid the blaze
 Which circles round the Living Word.

10

The Meek, the Wise, none else is here,
 Dispensing light to men below ;
 His awful accents fill the ear,
 Now keen as fire, now soft as snow.

As snow, those inward pleadings fall,
 As soft, as bright, as pure, as cool,
 With gentle weight and gradual,
 And sink into the feverish soul.

20

The Sinless One, He comes to seek,
 The dreary heart, the spirit lone,
 Tender of natures proud or weak,
 Not less than if they were His own.

He takes and scans the sinner o'er,
Handling His scholars one by one,
Weighing what they can bear, before
He gives the penance to be done.

Jesu, to Philip's sons reveal
That gentlest wisdom from above, 30
To spread compassion o'er their zeal,
And mingle patience with their love.

CLVI

GUARDIAN ANGEL

My oldest friend, mine from the hour
When first I drew my breath ;
My faithful friend, that shall be mine,
Unfailing, till my death ;

Thou hast been ever at my side ;
My Maker to thy trust
Consign'd my soul, what time He framed
The infant child of dust.

No beating heart in holy prayer,
No faith, inform'd aright, 10
Gave me to Joseph's tutelage,
Or Michael's conquering might.

Nor patron Saint, nor Mary's love,
The dearest and the best,
Has known my being, as thou hast known,
And blest, as thou hast blest.

Thou wast my sponsor at the font ;
And thou, each budding year,
Didst whisper elements of truth
Into my childish ear. 20

And when, ere boyhood yet was gone,
My rebel spirit fell,
Ah ! thou didst see, and shudder too,
Yet bear each deed of Hell.

And then in turn, when judgements came,
And scared me back again,
Thy quick soft breath was near to soothe
And hallow every pain.

Oh ! who of all thy toils and cares
Can tell the tale complete, 30
To place me under Mary's smile,
And Peter's royal feet !

And thou wilt hang about my bed,
When life is ebbing low ;
Of doubt, impatience, and of gloom,
The jealous sleepless foe.

Mine, when I stand before the Judge ;
And mine, if spared to stay
Within the golden furnace, till
My sin is burn'd away. 40

And mine, O Brother of my soul,
When my release shall come ;
Thy gentle arms shall lift me then,
Thy wings shall waft me home.

CLVII

THE GOLDEN PRISON

WEEP not for me, when I am gone,
 Nor spend thy faithful breath
 In grieving o'er the spot or hour
 Of all-enshrouding death ;

Nor waste in idle praise thy love
 On deeds of head or hand,
 Which live within the living Book,
 Or else are writ in sand ;

But let it be thy best of prayers,
 That I may find the grace
 To reach the holy house of toll,
 The frontier penance-place,—

10

To reach that golden palace bright,
 Where souls elect abide,
 Waiting their certain call to Heaven,
 With Angels at their side ;

Where hate, nor pride, nor fear torments
 The transitory guest,
 But in the willing agony
 He plunges, and is blest.

20

And as the fainting patriarch gain'd
 His needful halt mid-way,
 And then refresh'd pursued his path,
 Where up the mount it lay,

So pray, that, rescued from the storm
Of heaven's eternal ire,
I may lie down, then rise again,
Safe, and yet saved by fire.

The Oratory.

1853.

CLVIII

HEATHEN GREECE

(A Song)

WHERE are the Islands of the Blest ?

They stud the Aegean Sea ;

And where the deep Elysian rest ?

It haunts the vale where Peneus strong

Pours his incessant stream along,

While craggy ridge and mountain bare

Cut keenly through the liquid air,

And, in their own pure tints array'd,

Scorn earth's green robes which change and fade,

And stand in beauty undecay'd,

10

Guards of the bold and free.

For what is Afric, but the home

Of burning Phlegethon ?

What the low beach and silent gloom,

And chilling mists of that dull river,

Along whose bank the thin ghosts shiver,—

The thin wan ghosts that once were men,—

But Tauris, isle of moor and fen,

Or, dimly traced by seamen's ken,

The pale-cliff'd Albion.

20

The Oratory.

1856.

CLIX

A MARTYR CONVERT

(A Hymn)

THE number of Thine own complete,
 Sum up and make an end ;
 Sift clean the chaff, and house the wheat ;
 And then, O Lord, descend.

Descend, and solve by that descent
 This mystery of life ;
 Where good and ill, together blent,
 Wage an undying strife.

For rivers twain are gushing still,
 And pour a mingled flood ;
 Good in the very depths of ill,
 Ill in the heart of good.

10

The last are first, the first are last,
 As angel eyes behold ;
 These from the sheep-cote sternly cast,
 Those welcomed to the fold.

No Christian home, no pastor's eye,
 No preacher's vocal zeal,
 Moved Thy dear Martyr to defy
 The prison and the wheel.

20

Forth from the heathen ranks she stept,
The forfeit crown to claim
Of Christian souls who had not kept
Their birthright and their name.

Grace form'd her out of sinful dust;
She knelt a soul defiled,
She rose in all the faith, and trust,
And sweetness of a child.

And in the freshness of that love
She preach'd, by word and deed, 30
The mysteries of the world above,
Her new-found, glorious creed.

And running, in a little hour,
Of life the course complete,
She reach'd the Throne of endless power,
And sits at Jesu's feet.

Her spirit there, her body here,
Make one the earth and sky ;
We use her name, we touch her bier,
We know her God is nigh. 40

Praise to the Father, as is meet,
Praise to the Only Son,
Praise to the Holy Paraclete
While endless ages run.

CLX

ST. PHILIP IN HIS SCHOOL

(A Song)

THIS is the Saint of gentleness and kindness,
 Cheerful in penance, and in precept winning ;
 Patiently healing of their pride and blindness,
 Souls that are sinning.

This is the Saint, who, when the world allures us,
 Cries her false wares, and opes her magic coffers,
 Points to a better city, and secures us
 With richer offers.

Love is his bond, he knows no other fetter, 9
 Asks not our all, but takes whate'er we spare him,
 Willing to draw us on from good to better,
 As we can bear him.

When he comes near to teach us and to bless us,
 Prayer is so sweet, that hours are but a minute ;
 Mirth is so pure, though freely it possess us,
 Sin is not in it.

Thus he conducts by holy paths and pleasant,
 Innocent souls, and sinful souls forgiven,
 Towards the bright palace where our God is present,
 Throned in high heaven. 20

CLXI .

ST. PHILIP IN HIS DISCIPLES

(A Song)

I ASK not for fortune, for silken attire,
 For servants to throng me, and crowds to admire ;
 I ask not for power, or for name or success,
 These do not content me, these never can bless.

Let the world flaunt her glories ! each glittering
 prize,
 Though tempting to others, is naught in my eyes.
 A child of St. Philip, my master and guide,
 I would live as he lived, and would die as he died.

Why should I be sadden'd, though friendless I be ?
 For who in his youth was so lonely as he ? 10
 If spited and mock'd, so was he, when he cried
 To his God on the cross to stand by his side.

If scanty my fare, yet how was he fed ?
 On olives and herbs and a small roll of bread.
 Are my joints and bones sore with aches and with
 pains ?
 Philip scourged his young flesh with fine iron chains.

A closet his home, where he, year after year,
 Bore heat or cold greater than heat or cold here ;
 A rope stretch'd across it, and o'er it he spread
 His small stock of clothes ; and the floor was his bed.

One lodging besides ; God's temple he chose, 21
And he slept in its porch his few hours of repose ;
Or studied by light which the altar-lamp gave,
Or knelt at the Martyr's victorious grave.

I'm ashamed of myself, of my tears and my tongue,
So easily fretted, so often unstrung ;
Mad at trifles, to which a chance moment gives
 birth ;
Complaining of heaven, and complaining of earth.

So now, with his help, no cross will I fear,
But will linger resign'd through my pilgrimage here.
A child of St. Philip, my master and guide, 31
I will live as he lived, and will die as he died.

CLXII

FOR THE DEAD

(A Hymn)

HELP, Lord, the souls which Thou hast made,
The souls to Thee so dear,
In prison, for the debt unpaid
Of sins committed here.

Those holy souls, they suffer on,
Resign'd in heart and will,
Until Thy high behest is done,
And justice has its fill.
For daily falls, for pardon'd crime,
They joy to undergo
The shadow of Thy cross sublime,
The remnant of Thy woe.

10

Help, Lord, the souls which Thou hast made,
The souls to Thee so dear,
In prison, for the debt unpaid
Of sins committed here.

Oh, by their patience of delay,
Their hope amid their pain,
Their sacred zeal to burn away
Disfigurement and stain;
Oh, by their fire of love, not less
In keenness than the flame,
Oh, by their very helplessness,
Oh, by Thy own great Name,

20

Good Jesu, help ! sweet Jesu, aid
The souls to Thee most dear,
In prison, for the debt unpaid
Of sins committed here.

The Oratory.

1857.

CLXIII

THE TWO WORLDS

UNVEIL, O Lord, and on us shine
 In glory and in grace ;
 This gaudy world grows pale before
 The beauty of Thy face.

Till Thou art seen, it seems to be
 A sort of fairy ground,
 Where suns unsetting light the sky,
 And flowers and fruits abound.

But when Thy keener, purer beam
 Is pour'd upon our sight,
 It loses all its power to charm,
 And what was day is night,

10

Its noblest toils are then the scourge
 Which made Thy blood to flow ;
 Its joys are but the treacherous thorns
 Which circled round Thy brow.

And thus, when we renounce for Theo
 Its restless aims and fears,
 The tender memories of the past,
 The hopes of coming years,

20

Poor is our sacrifice, whose eyes
Are lighted from above ;
We offer what we cannot keep,
What we have ceased to love.

The Oratory.

1862.

POEMS BY
JOHN HENRY NEWMAN
FROM 'LYRA APOSTOLICA', 1836

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BONDAGE

OH, prophet, tell me not of peace,
Or Christ's all-loving deeds ;
Death only can from sin release,
And death to judgement leads.

Thou from thy birth hast set thy face
Towards thy Redeemer Lord,
To tend and deck His holy place,
And note His secret word.

I ne'er shall reach Heaven's glorious path ;
Yet haply tears may stay 10
The purpose of His instant wrath,
And slake the fiery day.

Then plead for me, thou blessed saint,
While I in haste begin
All man e'er guessed of work or plaint
To wash away my sin.

TERROR

O FATHER, list a sinner's call !
 Fain would I hide from man my fall—
 But I must speak, or faint :—
 I cannot wear guilt's silent thrall—
 Cleanse me, kind Saint !

' Sinner ne'er blunted yet sin's goad ;
 Speed thee, my son, a safer road,
 And sue His pardoning smile
 Who walked woe's depths, bearing man's load
 Of guilt the while.'

10

Yet raise a mitigating hand,
 And minister some potion bland,
 Some present fever-stay !
 Lest one for whom His work was planned
 Die of dismay.

' Peace cannot be, hope must be thine ;
 I can but lift the Mercy-sign.
 This wouldst thou ? It shall be !
 Kneel down, and take the word divine,
 ABSOLVO TE.'

20

THE EUCHARIST

WHENE'ER I seek the Holy Altar's rail,
 And kneel to take the grace there offered me,
 It is no time to task my reason frail,
 To try Christ's words, and search how they may
 be ;
 Enough, I eat His Flesh and drink His Blood,
 More is not told—to ask it is not good.

I will not say with these, that bread and wine
 Have vanished at the consecration prayer ;
 Far less with those deny that aught divine
 And of immortal seed is hidden there. 10
 Hence, disputants ! The din, which ye admire,
 Keeps but ill measure with the Church's choir.

THE DESERT

Two sinners ¹ have been grace-endued,
 Unwearied to sustain
 For forty days a solitude
 On mount and desert plain.

But feverish thoughts the breast have swayed
 And gloom or pride is shown,
 If e'er we seek the garden's shade,
 Or walk the world, alone.

For Adam e'en, before his sin,
 His God a help-meet found ;
 Blest with an Angel's heart within,
 Paul wrought with friends around.

10

Lone saints of old, of purpose high !
 On Syria's sands ye claim,
 'Mid heathen rage, our sympathy,
 In peace ye force our blame.

¹ Moses and Elijah.

REMOVAL

DEAR sainted Friends, I call not you
 To share the joy serene,
 Which flows upon me from the view
 Of crag and steep ravine.

Ye, on that loftier mountain old,
 Safe lodged in Eden's cell,
 Whence run the rivers four, behold
 This earth, as ere it fell.

Or, when ye think of those who stay,
 Still tried by the world's fight,
 'Tis but in looking for the day
 Which shall the lost unite.

10

Ye rather, elder Spirits strong !
 Who from the first have trod
 This nether scene, man's race among,
 The while ye live to God.

Ye hear, and ye can sympathize—
 Vain thought ! those eyes of fire
 Pierce through God's works, and duly prize :
 Ye smile when we admire.

20

Ah, Saviour Lord ! with Thee my heart
 Angel nor Saint shall share :
 To Thee 't is known, for man Thou art,
 To soothe each tumult there.

THE WATCHMAN

‘Quit you like men, be strong.’

FAINT not, and fret not, for threatened woe,
 Watchman on Truth’s grey height !
 Few though the faithful, and fierce though the foe,
 Weakness is ay Heaven’s might.

Infidel Ammon and niggard Tyre,
 Ill-attuned pair, unite ;
 Some work for love, and some work for hire,
 But weakness shall be Heaven’s might !

Eli’s feebleness, Saul’s black wrath,
 May aid Ahitophel’s spite : 10
 And prayers from Gerizim, and curses from Gath . . .
 Our weakness shall be Heaven’s might.

Quail not, and quake not, thou Warder bold,
 Be there no friend in sight ;
 Turn thee to question the days of old,
 When weakness was ay Heaven’s might.

Moses was one, yet he stayed the sin
 Of the host, in the Presence bright :
 And Elias scorned the Carmel-din,
 When Baal would scan Heaven’s might. 20

Time’s years are many, Eternity one,
 And one is the Infinite ;
 The chosen are few, few the deeds well done,
 For scantness is still Heaven’s might.

ATHANASIUS

WHEN shall our northern Church her champion see,
 Raised by divine decree,
 To shield the Ancient Truth at his own harm ? . . .
 Like him who stayed the arm
 Of tyrannous power, and learning's sophist-tone,
 Keen-visioned Seer, alone.

The many crouched before an idol-priest,
 Lord of the world's rank feast.
 In the dark night, 'mid the saints' trial sore,
 He stood, then bowed before 10
 The Holy Mysteries,—he their meetest sign,
 Weak vessel, yet divine.¹

Cyprian is ours, since the high-souled primate laid
 Under the traitorous blade
 His silvered head. And Chrysostom we claim
 In that clear eloquent flame
 And deep-taught zeal in the same woe, which shone
 Bright round a Martyr's throne.

And Ambrose reared his crosier as of old,
 Less honoured, but as bold, 20
 When in dark times our champion crossed a king :—
 But good in everything
 Comes as ill's cure. Dim Future ! shall we NEED
 A prophet for Truth's Creed ?

¹ Vid. the account of Syrianus breaking into his Church, Theodoret, *Hist.* ii. 13.

SUPERSTITION

O LORD and Christ, Thy Churches of the South
 So shudder, when they see
 The two-edged sword sharp-issuing from Thy mouth,
 As to fall back from Thee,
 And seek to charms of man, or saints above,
 To aid them against Thee, Thou Fount of grace and
 love !

But I before Thine awful eyes will go,
 And firmly fix me there
 In my full shame ; not bent my doom to know,
 Not fainting with despair ; 10
 Not fearing less than they, but deeming sure,
 If e'en Thy Name shall fail, naught my base heart
 can cure.

SCHISM

OH, rail not at our brethren of the North,
 Albeit Samaria finds her likeness there ;
 A self-formed Priesthood, and the Church cast forth
 To the chill mountain air.

What though their fathers sinned, and lost the grace
 Which seals the Holy Apostolic Line ?
 Christ's love o'erflows the bounds His Prophets trace
 In His revealed design.

Israel had Seers ; to them the Word is nigh ; 9
 Shall not that Word run forth, and gladness give
 To many a Shunammite, till in His eye
 The full Seven thousand live ?

SCIENCE

‘ Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.’

THERE is one only Bond in the wide earth
 Of lawful use to join the earth in one ;
 But in these weary times, the restless run
 E’en to its distant verge, and so give birth
 To other friendships, and joint-works to bind
 Their hearts to the unclean whom there they find.

And so is cast upon the face of things
 A many webs to fetter down the Truth ;
 While the vexed Church, which gave in her fair
 youth
 Prime pattern of the might which order brings, 10
 But dimly signals to her distant seed,
 There strongest found, where darkest in her creed.

O shame ! that Christian joins with Infidel
 In learned search and curious-seeming art !
 Burn we our books, if Christ’s we be in heart,
 Sooner than heaven should court the praise of hell !
 Self-flattering age ! to whom shall I not seem
 Pained with hot thoughts, the preacher of a dream ?

PROTESTANTISM

'I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce My servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.'

WEEP, Mother mine, and veil thine eyes with shame !

What was thy sin of old,

That men now give thy awful-sounding name

To the false prophet's fold ?

Whose flock thy crosier claim.

Sure thou hast practised in the tongues unclean

Which Babel-masters teach ;

Slighting the Paraclete's true flame serene,

The inimitative speech,

Which throned thee the world's queen. 10

But, should earth-dust, from court or school of men

Have dimmed thy bridal gear,

When Wrath next walks his rounds, and in Heaven's

ken

Thy charge and works appear . . .

Ah ! thou must SUFFER then !

CONSERVATISM

THE BEASTS OF EPHEBUS

'My soul is among lions: and I lie even among the children of men that are set on fire, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.'

How long, O Lord of grace,
Must languish Thy true race,
In a forced friendship linked with Belial here;
With Mammon's brand of care,
And Baal pleading fair,
And the dog-breed who at Thy Temple jeer?

How long, O Lord, how long
Shall Caesar do us wrong,
Laid but as steps to throne his mortal power?
While e'en our Angels stand 10
With helpless voice and hand,
Scorned by proud Haman, in his triumph-hour.

'T is said our seers discern
The destined bickerings stern,
In the dim distance, of Thy fiery train.
O nerve us in that woe!
For, where Thy wheels shall go,
We must be tried, the while Thy foes are slain.

THE BACKWARD CHURCH

‘Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.’

WAKE, Mother dear, the foes are near,
 A spoiler claims thy child;
 This the sole refuge of my fear,
 Thy bosom undefiled.

What spells of power, in this strange hour,
 My Mother’s heart enslave?
 Where is thy early bridal dower,
 To suffer and to save?

Thee then I sue, Sleepless and True,
 Dread Maker reconciled!
 Help ere they smite, Thy shrine in view,
 The Mother with the child.

ROME

FAR sadder musing on the traveller falls
 At sight of thee, O Rome !
 Than when he views the rough sea-beaten walls
 Of Greece, thought's early home ;
 For thou wast of the hateful Four, whose doom
 Burdens the Prophet's scroll ;
 But Greece was clean, till in her history's gloom
 Her name and sword a Macedonian stole.

And next a mingled throng besets the breast
 Of bitter thoughts and sweet ; 10
 How shall I name thee, Light of the wide West,
 Or heinous error-seat ?
 O Mother erst, close tracing Jesus' feet,
 Do not thy titles glow
 In those stern judgement fires, which shall complete
 Earth's strife with Heaven, and ope the eternal
 woe ?

THE CRUEL CHURCH

O MOTHER Church of Rome ! why has thy heart
 Beat so untruly towards thy northern child ?
 Why give a gift, nor give it undefiled,
 Drugging the blessing with a step-dame's art ?
 Why bare thy sword ? beneath thy censure's smart
 Long days we writhed, who would not be be-
 guiled ;
 While thy keen breath, like blast of winter wild,
 Froze, till it crumbled, each sublimer part
 Of rite or work, devotion's flower and prime.
 Thus have we lain, thy charge, a dreary time, 10
 Christ's little ones, torn from faith's ancient home,
 To dogs a prey. And now thou sendest foes,
 Bred from thy womb, lost Church ! to mock the
 throes
 Of thy free child, thou cruel-natured Rome !

ISRAEL

‘And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him ;
but he refused to be comforted.’

O SPECIOUS sin, and Satan’s subtle snare,
That urges sore each gentlest meekest heart,
When its kind thoughts are crushed and its wounds
smart,
World-sick to turn within and image there
Some idol dream, to lull the throbbing care !
So felt reft Israel, when he fain would part
With living friends ; and called on memory’s art
To raise the dead and soothe him by despair
Nor err they not, although that image be 9
God’s own, nor to the dead their thoughts be given—
Earth-hating sure, but yet of earth enthralled ;
For who dare sit at home, and wait to see
High Heaven descend, when man from self is called
Up through this thwarting outward world to Heaven ?

SEPARATION

Do not their souls, who 'neath the Altar wait
 Until their second birth,
 The gift of patience need, as separate
 From their first friends of earth ?
 Not that earth's blessings are not all outshone
 By Eden's Angel flame,
 But that earth knows not yet, the Dead has won
 That crown, which was his aim.
 For when he left it, 'twas a twilight scene
 About his silent bier, 10
 A breathless struggle, faith and sight between,
 And Hope and sacred Fear.
 Fear startled at his pains and dreary end,
 Hope raised her chalice high,
 And the twin-sisters still his shade attend,
 Viewed in the mourner's eye.
 So day by day for him from earth ascends,
 As dew in summer-even,
 The speechless intercession of his friends,
 Toward the azure heaven. 20
 Ah ! dearest, with a word he could dispel
 All questioning, and raise
 Our hearts to rapture, whispering all was well,
 And turning prayer to praise.
 And other secrets too he could declare,
 By patterns all divine,
 His earthly creed retouching here and there,
 And deepening every line.

Dearest ! he longs to speak, as I to know,

And yet we both refrain :

30

It were not good ; a little doubt below,

And all will soon be plain.

The last twelve lines were added after February 28, 1836, the date of R. Hurrell Froude's death.

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